

The Japan Weekly Mail.

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"FAIS CE QUE DOIS: ADVIENNE QUE POURRA!"

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice will be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion in the "JAPAN WEEKLY MAIL," must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. It is particularly requested that all letters on business be addressed to the MANAGER, and Cheques be made payable to same; and that literary contributions be addressed to the EDITOR.

YOKOHAMA: SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH, 1884.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

A VIOLENT epidemic of small-pox is said to be raging in the Riukiu Islands.

It is stated that a submarine cable is soon to be laid between Kagoshima and the Riukiu Islands.

BAC-NINH has been captured by the French with a loss of only 72 wounded.

SIR HARRY PARKES has been appointed to represent Her Majesty at the Korean, as well as the Chinese, capital.

It is stated that the railway from Tokiyo to Takasaki will be opened for traffic in the beginning of April.

AN outbreak is reported to have occurred among the prisoners employed in the Miike Mine, on the 9th instant. Order was restored without much difficulty.

OFFICIAL returns show that, during 1883, the number of daily newspapers suspended by order of the authorities throughout Japan was 49 and the number of periodicals 3.

THE construction of a Japanese Consulate at Pusan, as well as the rebuilding of a part of the Japanese Legation at Seoul, are said to have been contracted for by Messrs. Okura & Co., of Tokiyo.

AN instance of the want of additional educational machinery in Japan is afforded by a recent re-

port from the Prefecture of Shidzuoka, where, out of 300 candidates who applied for admission to the normal school, only 30 were admitted.

THE obsequies of Brother H. N. Tileston, of the Yokohama Lodge, were performed by his fellow Masons, with Masonic honours, on the 10th instant. Mr. Tileston had formerly been in the service of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. His death took place a few days after his return to Japan from America.

THE latest addition to the Japanese Navy—the *Kaimon-kwan*—which was recently launched at the Yokosuka Dockyard, has made her trial trip, attaining an average speed of 12.37 knots with four boilers and 8.79 knots with two. The *Kaimon-kwan* will be completed in a few days and transferred to the Marine Bureau.

THE foundation stone of a new Theological College was laid at Osaka by the Right Rev. Bishop Poole, on the 3rd instant. The College is to be erected by means of a donation of £72,000, made by Mr. William Charles Jones, of Warrington, in Lancashire, for the extension and development of the native churches in China and Japan.

PUBLIC attention has been much directed, of late, by notes and articles in the vernacular press, to an apparent revival of the taste for many customs which fell into disuse after the Restoration. Prominent among these is wrestling, an exhibition of which was given at the Yenriyokwan on the 16th instant, in the presence of His Majesty the Emperor, and many high officials both Japanese and foreign.

KOREA, having spent the money she borrowed from China, is said to be again in embarrassed circumstances, and to be casting about for economical devices. Among her projects one is to replace the foreigners employed in her Customs service by Japanese, on account of the lower salaries which would suffice for the latter. It is thought that steps of this nature will soon cease to be optional and become imperative.

THE returns of Korean trade show—according to the vernacular press—that the total value of the exports and imports during 1883 was 852,695.74 yen, against 1,400,237 yen during 1882. The decrease was entirely on the side of imports, these having fallen off by 695,117.49 yen, while exports increased by 147,575.49 yen. Commercial depression is said to be severely felt, though fair profits were realized on the trade of the year.

FORGED *Kinsatsu* of small denominations are said to be in circulation in Yokohama in some numbers. The most favorite method of counterfeiting is to change the Japanese numeral 10 into the ideograph signifying "half." This can easily be effected by the addition of four strokes. A recolouring of the obverse of the note is also necessary, however, and the consequence is that the forgery is easily detected. A vernacular paper states that notes of this nature are frequently

presented at the Osaka railway station, and that as many as three persons offering them have been arrested in one day.

A COMPANY with a capital of 150,000 yen has been formed to promote emigration to the Hokkaido. The programme of the projectors is to pay the expenses of persons willing to emigrate, on condition that the latter agree to work for a certain time at fixed wages and in employments determined by the Company. Great difficulty is experienced in overcoming the reluctance of the Japanese to emigrate, though Yezo offers remarkable inducements and could, doubtless, be soon converted into a thriving colony.

ON the 13th instant, an action was commenced in the Ministerial Court of the United States in Tokiyo at the suit of the United States Consul-General Van Buren against Dr. T. H. Tripler of Yokohama for libel, the gist of the charge being that the defendant had wilfully misrepresented the circumstances under which General Van Buren came into possession of the buildings now occupied as the U.S. Consulate. The case for the prosecution was concluded on the 13th instant, and that for the defence, postponed until the 17th instant.

THE British barque *Sattara*, which went ashore at Omaye-saki and was subsequently abandoned, has been refloated and towed safely into Yokohama harbour. She is said to be quite uninjured. The affair has excited much comment. The master of the *Sattara* had reported to the underwriters that the vessel's back was broken and that there was no hope of getting her off. She was consequently sold by auction as a wreck, and her hull was purchased by Messrs. Kildoye and Robertson for \$1,750. It appears now that she is perfectly sound, and worth a good many more thousands than there were hundreds paid for her.

THE Hongkong journals have published some official correspondence which took place between the Colonial Office, the Admiralty, and the local authorities at Hongkong, with reference to the disposition of Her Majesty's naval forces in Chinese waters. The Lords of the Admiralty record their opinion that "Vice-Admiral Willes has shown good judgment in arranging for the adequate protection of British interests, while duly exercising the squadron under his command at sea." The correspondence shows that in June last the British Consul at Shanghai requested the Admiral to detach a corvette and a sloop to guard the settlement during the visit of the Viceroy Li Hung Chang. With this extraordinary requisition Vice-Admiral Willes wisely refused to comply, saying that he considered such a measure would be an "insult to that distinguished and enlightened statesman."

THE annual meeting of the Yokohama Cricket Club was held on the 11th instant. The accounts showed that the expenditure of the Club during 1883 had been \$844.66 and the income \$974.66. The rules were amended so as to

permit practice on Sundays. Some opposition was made to this change, but the feeling of the members was evidently in favour of removing restrictions which have no rational basis. The Rev. E. C. Irwine justly pointed out that the probable result of the modification would be to deprive of their usual holiday many Japanese bettoes, gardeners, &c. It may fairly be assumed, however, that the members of the Cricket Club and others interested in the sport will take care, when extending their own sphere of recreation, not to abridge the legitimate leisure of their employes.

NOTES.

THE vernacular papers, from which we take the following report, are full of accounts of the great wrestling exhibition which was held in the Yenriokwan on the 10th inst. The matches had been arranged by the members of the Senate, and everything was conducted after the fashion of the olden time when the champion wrestler Kiyobashi held his athletic court at the Imperial residence at Nara. The arrangements and decorations were very fine, and more than three thousand dignitaries and persons of rank were present. The ring was marked out in the garden of the Yenriokwan, the seat of H.I.M. the Mikado being in full view of the arena, facing southwards. One step below and on either side of the Imperial seat, were galleries for the Princes, Ministers of State, the Foreign Ministers, and Privy Councillors. A little farther to the right were the seats of the *Chokunin* officials. The eastern and western galleries were reserved for the *Kwasoku* and *Sonin*. Red blankets were spread over the ground around the ring, where at least 2,000 spectators were seated. Perfect order was observed from first to last, and the quiet, manly carriage of the wrestlers was a matter of admiring surprise to all present. The umpire first called out the names of the rival wrestlers, and as they entered the ring again repeated their names. As soon as the one or the other proved victorious, a second umpire advanced and presented the umpire in the ring a bunch of flowers on a fan; this umpire then called out the name of the winning wrestler, and handed him the flowers in token of his prowess. The same ceremony was observed in all of the sixty bouts. The principal winners were as follows:—Yawatayama, Idzutsu, Ichinoya, Takachiho, Chiwagatake, Tsurugiyama, Umegatani, Kashiwado, Inenohana, Tomotsuma, Tomonohira, Takamiyama, Onaruto. The presiding umpires were Kimura Shozaburo, Shogara, and Kiyoji; all wore the ceremonial dress of olden time.

A HOME paper says:—A really exciting ceremony was that carried out beneath the Mersey yesterday (Jan. 17.) In making a tunnel between Liverpool and Birkenhead the contractors have been boring from both ends. At the early part of the week it was made known that very few feet of the rock remained to be drilled, while at mid-day yesterday but a single foot of obstruction remained to separate the two parties. Shortly before noon a number of gentlemen connected with the Mersey Railway Company descended the shaft on the Liverpool side, and proceeded along the tunnel as far as it had been cut. The jarring noise of the boring machine could be heard driving away at the partition on the Birkenhead side. In a few minutes the

intervening layers of rocks fell away, and the face of Col. Beaumont, the engineer, was seen peering through. A loud and hearty shout from all present echoed through the long corridor as the opposite parties grasped hands. Then, struggling through the opening, the chairman got into the opposite tunnel and ascended the Birkenhead shaft with his friends—the first human beings who ever walked under the Mersey. The boring has thus been successfully completed, and nothing now remains but to put the tunnel into ship-shape, and the busy boring machine which has been delving and grubbing away in the dark bosom of the rocks for so many months will have a rest. The engineer may well feel proud of his work, for it is no little feat to drive a headway from opposite sides of a big river like the Mersey, and meet in the middle exactly to a foot.

IN the year 1491, three or four designs for the façade of the Dome of Florence were presented to Laurent le Magnifique. He put them aside saying, "*Examinerai cela, rien ne presse.*" Laurent appears to have been right. The work was so little pressing that it waited four centuries. For one reason or another nobody thought it worth while to complete the monument commenced by Arnulf and Brunelleschi. After the establishment of Italian independence in 1860, people began to think of finishing the great cathedral. A large sum was raised by private subscription, and the façade was built, with the exception of the crown, which remains to be added. But a tremendous dispute then arose about the form of this crown-piece. One party wanted to have it basilic; another, tricuspidal. Both were equally resolute in maintaining their views, and the difficulty of deciding seemed so great that they were on the point of submitting the question to the Government when a third party stepped in, declaring that it made very little matter whether the cathedral at Florence had one cusp or three, but a great deal that the Government should not be betrayed into meddling with matters which did not concern it. So there is another delay about the Dome, and some persons suggest that as "*rien ne presse,*" three or four centuries more may be employed in determining the shape of the crown-piece.

AN event which reminds one of mediæval times and the horrors of the inquisition is said to have occurred recently in Madrid. A carriage with two gentlemen drove up to the house of a mason, and desired the man to accompany them immediately on pressing business. He complied, and made no objection to have his eyes bandaged on consideration of an ample *douceur*. Ultimately he found himself in a room where a lady was lying, gagged, bound, and weeping piteously. The mason was then threatened with a terrible death unless he built up with bricks the alcove in which this woman was lying. His story is that he had no choice but to consent, and that he was afterwards conducted back to his house with the same precautions as before. He lost no time in informing the police who are now searching for the place of the crime.

FOR the past two years or so the attention of stenographers and shorthand writers in general has been attracted by the performances of a little machine called the stenograph. This instrument, the invention of an old Pittman reporter, Mr. M. M. Bartholomew, of Belleville, Ill., is operated by means of ten keys, nine forming

the characters, the tenth being the space-key, separating each word similar to the type-writer. By placing the hands in a natural position on the table before you, fingers spread a little apart, thumbs close together, you will get a tolerable idea of the working plan of this machine. As these nine keys are joined together at one end forming a V-shaped rod, it will be seen that only five characters are thereby formed. These are all that is necessary, however, to form the thirty-one different letters and combinations used in writing. The other four keys are merely used to obtain speed by alternating the movement of the hands. It writes on a strip of paper the same as the stock and produce machines, the letters being determined by their position on the strip. It is claimed to have been used successfully as a medium for verbatim court reporting, lectures, sermons, speeches, etc., and to require much less time in learning than any other system. It is very simply and neatly constructed, being about 7½ inches long by about the same width, and weighs only 3½ pounds, case and all.—*Bradstreet's*.

IN connection with the establishment of the Customs' Service in Korea, it is very evident that the Government authorities are regretting that they paid so dear for their whistle. The correspondent of the *Mainichi Shimbun* throws considerable light on the present situation, which seems to savour strongly of a muddle. "In November last," he writes, "many foreigners were engaged in the newly-established Customs' Service. Owing, however, to the great falling off in trade, the Customs' revenue has not sufficed to cover the working expenses, and the salaries of the foreign employes are sadly in arrear. The Korean Government has, in consequence, proposed to engage Japanese employes instead of European, on account of the lower wages. But Mr. von Möllendorff has positively refused to sanction this idea, stating that it would be most unfair to cast off the foreign employes after only six months' service. No further steps have been taken in consequence."

This is, however, not the end of the matter. Only a few weeks ago we were informed that Mr. von Möllendorff's popularity was decidedly on the wane; and, despite his influential position as Vice President of the Foreign Office, his authoritative interference in the little plans of the Korean Government is certain to become decidedly distasteful to the authorities. The Chinese loan of \$200,000, brought mainly by the exertions of the energetic Vice President, has "softly and silently vanished away" in the establishment of a Customs' Service and a few other ornamental etceteras. The people are suffering severely from the great decrease in trade, and the foreign trade is gradually coming back to its one-time status—Zero. *Ex nihilo nihil*: 'tis a wise saying, and not without a moral.

REFERRING to the new Chinese Restriction Bill, the *San Francisco Chronicle* says:—We are not disposed to be too captious about the new Chinese Restriction Bill, though it may not embody every feature which we might wish therein incorporated. As approved by the California delegation it was in some respects better than in the form reported to the Senate, with the changes inspired by philanthropic and not very well informed members from the Eastern States. Still, it is a great improvement on the present

law, which has proved so inefficient, and if the *New York Times* is to be believed, it will, if passed, have the peculiar effect of compelling the Americans to do their own washing. We should have no particular objection to this, for if we were brought back to the laundresses and laundry appliances of 35 years ago—that is to say, before the Chinese invasion commenced—we might still succeed in maintaining our reputation as a clean and wholesome people. The new bill endeavors to obviate the difficulties of the present day by requiring every Chinaman, other than laborer, who intends to come to the United States, to be identified thoroughly by the Chinese Government or the Government of which he happens at the time to be a subject. The identification must take the form of a certificate in which the name of the intending emigrant is written, together with his age, his family, his occupation, and a description of his physical peculiarities. This must be vided by the diplomatic representative of the United States at the port of embarkation, who must be satisfied by personal investigation that the allegations contained in it are correct. The efficiency of this portion of the law will depend on the honesty of the Chinese officials of the provinces and the intelligent activity of the Consul whose vise is required; but we believe it will prove generally satisfactory. This certificate so given, and with its consular indorsement so appended, is to be received as prima facie evidence of the right of the holder to enter an American port. Should it be found after a person has effected an entrance into the country that he has done it fraudulently, he is liable to arrest, with a fine of \$100 or six months' imprisonment. He is then to be sent back at the expense of this Government. Shipowners or shipmasters proved to have violated the law are to be fined, but this may be attended with difficulty, since once having landed a lot of fraudulent emigrants they may never again enter a port of the United States. The only other new provision of importance is that providing for the return of those Chinamen who were in the country between November 18, 1881, and August 4, 1882, which is also to be effected through the medium of certificates. The coming of emigrants is hedged around with so many difficulties that few probably will be able to evade the law, while the fact that most of the immigration is, and must continue to be, by regular lines, precludes the escape of most of the offending shipowners or shipmasters. The Chinese laborers who here and there manage to creep into the country in spite of its prohibition will not affect its general welfare. The bill as it stands is probably the best we can hope for, and we shall be glad to see it speedily become a law.

"*La France*," says a telegram dated at Paris, February the 1st, "reasserts that Admiral Courbet lately attacked Bac-ninh and was repulsed with losses equal to those sustained at Sontay. The same paper says that the French met 25,000 well armed and strongly posted Chinese regulars under the walls of Bac-ninh." There is just one possibility that this rumour is correct. Admiral Courbet's natural desire to terminate the campaign before his successor's arrival may have induced him to deliver an assault prematurely and therefore unsuccessfully. But Admiral Courbet has shown himself too good a soldier to justify us in believing such a theory without very strong proof. In determining the dis-

tribution of the troops under his command, it would have fallen well within his province to learn as much as possible about the actual state of affairs in Bac-ninh, and with that object he may have ordered a reconnaissance in force. Without assuming that the troops employed in this operation allowed themselves to become unnecessarily engaged, their appearance and retreat may easily have been misinterpreted; while, on the other hand, it is very conceivable that the officers in charge, ready enough to seize Bac-ninh at once if any occasion offered, may have slightly exceeded their instructions. Now that the French have directed themselves in earnest against the place, the result may be foretold with tolerable assurance.

THE story of General Gordon's last week in England before starting for the Soudan has been compiled by a correspondent of the *Overland Mail*, and, together with various intemperate comments on the policy of the Government, is given to the public in the following interesting form:—

MONDAY, Jan. 14.—Chinese Gordon having sent in his resignation of his commission in her Majesty's army with a view to taking service under the King of the Belgians, the Government decides to accept it.

TUESDAY.—The Government change their mind, and recognising the public scandal of turning so distinguished a soldier adrift after thirty-one years' service without a pension, decide not to accept his resignation, but that he may take service with the King and go to the Congo. The King informed accordingly.

WEDNESDAY.—Gordon having bade adieu to his friends, leaves England for Brussels to make final arrangements with the King previous to his departure for the Congo. Arrives in Brussels and sees the King, who is much pleased with the decision of her Majesty's Government, which has enabled him to secure Gordon's services.

THURSDAY.—Her Majesty's Government telegraph to Gordon at Brussels to ask if he would go to Egypt, and if so when? Reply returned, "Ready to go at once." Her Majesty's Government telegraph orders to him to return to England. King informed that her Majesty's Government have changed their minds, and as they require Gordon themselves he cannot go to the Congo. King very much annoyed, and with much reason. Gordon leaves Brussels by evening express.

FRIDAY.—Gordon arrives in London at 6 a.m.; at noon has an interview with members of her Majesty's Government; at 4 p.m. receives instructions to proceed to Egypt; at 8.30 p.m. leaves Charing Cross for Souakin and Soudan; the Duke of Cambridge and Lord Wolseley being at the station to see him off and wish him God speed on an expedition which, in consequence of delays, waste of time, and injudicious public utterances by some of the members of her Majesty's Government, may be regarded almost as a forlorn hope, and beyond the powers even of the unselfish, resolute, and courageous Gordon. The object being to save the lives of thousands of human beings, including all nationalities, to say nothing of the English Consul and a good many British subjects, Gordon has not hesitated to respond to the call of his country. God grant him success and a safe return, and that thereby Mr. Gladstone and his Council may be spared from the blood-guiltiness which will attach to them if the garrison of Khartoum and other places in the Soudan fall into the tender clutches of the Mahdi.

SATURDAY.—Chinese Gordon crosses the Alps and enters Italy.

THE Marquis of Hartington, addressing his constituents, said in reference to the Ilbert Bill:—"We are greatly attacked for the Indian policy embodied in what is known as the Ilbert Bill. I have already, on the part of the Government, in my place in Parliament, taken the responsibility of that measure, and have, to the best of my ability, defended the policy of Lord Ripon's Government in regard to it; but knowing the obloquy and the unfounded abuse to which Lord Ripon is exposed, not only in India, but, I am sorry to say, also in this country, I can scarcely reconcile it to myself to allow any opportunity to pass without once more protesting against the injustice of that abuse, and of assuming on the part of the Government the responsibility of that policy. The European British subject has had, continues to have, and will have numerous

privileges, judicial privileges, as compared with his Native fellow-subjects, and the Government of India have not proposed to touch one of those privileges. We have for a considerable time past been admitting Natives to a share in the administrative offices of India, and the question is whether, having adopted this policy, we shall trust those selected Natives whom we have invested with large powers, whether we will entrust them with equal powers with those which are possessed by their comrades of the same rank, of our own race."

RECENT experiments in illuminating railway trains in the United Kingdom with the incandescent electric lamp have proved very successful. So much so has this been the case that the one company on which the new light was tried (the London, Brighton & South Coast) will use the system to the exclusion of all others. The *Daily News* says the system employed is a combination of dynamo machines and accumulators. When the train was in motion the electricity was stored and given out as required. Thirty twenty-candle incandescent lamps were used. The apparatus was entirely under the control of the "front guard," who, by means of a handle, turned the current on and off at pleasure. For example, while the train was running in broad daylight the electric light was not used, but the moment a tunnel was entered it was employed to great advantage. The electricity was generated by means of a belt connecting the dynamo machine with the axle of one of the wheels. The system is the invention of Mr. Stroudley, of Brighton (locomotive department), and Mr. Edward Houghton, the superintendent of the telegraph department. It is said to be "much cheaper than gas and only a trifle dearer than oil." The *Daily News* also makes the announcement that the first town to be lighted entirely and have its street railway cars driven by electricity will be Montreux, on Lake Geneva. A company has obtained a concession for the purpose, and motive power will be derived "from the water of the lake." Extensive works "will be erected immediately."

ONE of the main features of a new literary periodical called the *Révue Internationale*, which is published in England by Messrs. Trübner and Co., will be a regular literary correspondence from Paris, London, Berlin, Vienna, Pesth, Bucharest, Constantinople, Prague, Sophia, Athens, Zanté, Geneva, Brussels, Leyden, St. Petersburg, Kieff, Moscow, Warsaw, Stockholm, Christiania, Copenhagen, New York, Lisbon, Madrid, South America, India, China, and Japan. Each correspondent will closely follow the literary productions of the country relating to which he writes, and will give numerous extracts and translations, so that the readers of the *Révue Internationale* will have placed before them every fifteen days "a perfect mirror of the current literature of the world."

THE following story of the origin of Worcester-shire sauce is given by "Atlas" in the *World*:—"Although inferior in money-making power to a pill, a sauce, too, can make the guineas roll briskly in, and notably has this been the case with Lea & Perrins' Worcestershire. A scrutiny of the label will show that it is prepared "from the recipe of a nobleman in the county." The nobleman is Lord Sandys, and Messrs. Lea & Perrins' connection with the sauce came about

rather curiously. Many years ago, Mrs. Grey, author of *The Gambler's Wife* and other novels, well known in their day, was on a visit at Ombersley Court, when Lady Sandys chanced to remark that she wished she could get some very good curry-powder; which elicited from Mrs. Grey that she had in her desk an excellent recipe, which her uncle, Sir Charles, Chief Justice of India, had brought thence and given her. Lady Sandys said that there were some clever chemists in Worcester, who perhaps might be able to make up the powder; at all events, when they drove in after luncheon they would see. Messrs. Lea & Perrins looked at the recipe, doubted if they could procure all the ingredients, but said they would do their best, and in due time forwarded a packet of the powder. Subsequently the happy thought struck some one in the business that the powder might, in solution, make a good sauce. The experiment was made, and by degrees the thing took amazingly. All the world, to its remotest ends, now knows of Worcestershire sauce as an article of commerce; and, notwithstanding that, in common with most good things, it is pirated, an enormous trade is done in it. The profits, I am told, amount to thousands of pounds a year, and I cannot but suppose that liberal cheques, bearing the signature of Lea & Perrins, have passed from that firm to Mrs. Grey, to whom it is so heavily indebted for its prosperity.

An inquest has been held at Bath on the body of Mr. George William Herman, aged nineteen, the brother of the last Senior Wrangler. The deceased took part in a football match recently between Oldfield Park and the Bristol University. The game, which was played under Rugby rules, was an exceedingly rough one, no less than four men receiving injuries, and Mr. Herman had several falls. The medical evidence showed that a large artery had given way within the skull, producing apoplexy. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence, and strongly condemned the Rugby rules.

At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce at the Mauritius, amongst the subjects which came before the Chamber for consideration was the following in relation to His Excellency the Governor:—"An address of welcome voted by the Chamber was presented by a Deputation to His Excellency the Governor, on his arrival, in which hopes were entertained that His Excellency's experience and ability in Colonial Administration would greatly aid in solving satisfactorily those questions which awaited His Excellency's decision and in which the vital interests of the Colony were involved. It is with extreme satisfaction that the Chamber has to record that all the representations which it has considered necessary to make to Government for the benefit of commerce, have met with prompt and favorable consideration from His Excellency Sir John Pope Hennessy, and that several impediments to Commerce and Shipping have been promptly removed by legislative enactments, whilst a favorable consideration has been promised by His Excellency to the important question submitted by the Chamber to Government of a further reduction of Harbour Dues. His Excellency has also been pleased to ask the opinion of the Chamber on several important points including the question of Ocean Telegraphic Communication; and the Chamber desires to record its

respectful thanks to His Excellency for the evident desire manifested by him, during his short term of residence in Mauritius, to further by all means in his power, not only the interests of Commerce, but those of the Colony in general."

Mr. MIN-YONG-UK has been having a good time in Paris. The ladies there elected to call him "Mignon," having persuaded themselves that he is destined one day to reign over a country very rich in gold and silver mines and all sorts of precious metals, without counting that on his return there he is to marry the King's only daughter. The King, not being yet twenty years of age, could not have a marriageable daughter if he were an European, but being a Korean, nobody knows what he may not have. It has been a blow to the people of Paris that Mr. Min-Yong-uk dressed *à la Européenne*, and a blow that he could not speak a word of French. Nevertheless, he was interviewed successfully, when the following conversation is said to have taken place:—

Mignon—I am enchanted at being interviewed. It enables me to tell the gentlemen of Paris how wise I find them, and the ladies how pretty they look. I am neither a Chinese nor a Japanese, but a Mongol. I fear nothing nor anybody, and I defy my enemies as I respect my friends. If I am not dressed in the robes of silk and gold that men of my rank wear in Korea, it is because I was robbed of them at the station at Lyons, where a man took them to carry to my carriage. For the first time in my life I am to-day wearing European clothes. They are convenient, but they lack distinction, and the trousers are very uncomfortable.

Interviewer.—May I be permitted to ask whether your Imperial Highness is not charged to propose a treaty of commerce with France?

M.—We have treaties with Germany, England, and America. The French have not yet asked for one. We have not yet seen any Parisians in Korea. It is a pity, for they are very amiable. They are not tall, like the Koreans, but they have superb houses. I don't mind telling you, however, that the Parisians have done well to stay at home, for we used not to like strangers in my country. For four centuries we cut off their heads when they risked them among us, and impaled the Ministers who let them in.

I.—And to what does your Highness attribute this change of attitude towards strangers and your Ministers?

M.—To the rivalry which exists between us and the Chinese. They are very annoying. They have been trying for several years to absorb us under the pretext of civilizing us. But we claim to be quite as well educated as, and infinitely braver than, their long-tailed Mandarins. Our King has decided, in his wisdom, that we should place ourselves *en rapport* with the nations which carry on commerce with China, and that we should see what must be done to secure our independence and preserve the integrity of our nation. But I wish they had not stolen my portmanteau from me at Lyons. These trousers do not suit me at all.

An American contemporary gives the following as a full, particular, and true account of an incident that recently occurred at San Francisco:—While five of the Pioneer Club six-oar crew were sitting in their shell and swearing vigorously at the non-appearance of the sixth man, who was half-an-hour late, a well-dressed and modest young stranger strolled into the boat-house and began inspecting the equipments with great interest. "I'll tell you what we'll do, fellows," said the stroke; "as No. 4 isn't coming, suppose we coax that dude there to take a row and bust him all up." The perpetration of this time-honoured joke upon a "sofy" was received with approbation, and the newcomer was, with a grand show of hospitality, invited to take the vacant oar. "Well, I don't know, gentlemen," said the young man, looking at his watch doubtfully, "I'm a stranger here. I do need a little exercise, though." "Oh, get in," said No. 2, winking at his companions, "a little spin will do you good," and they finally persuaded the victim of their kindly scheme to take off his coat and assume a club cap. "Now keep your eye on me, and try to keep time," said the captain. "You'll never, never make

an oarsman unless you watch the stroke." "I'll do the best I can, gentlemen," said the guest, meekly. "I'm always willing to improve." The boat went down towards Hunters' Point a couple of miles at an easy, three-quarter stroke, the new comer pulling away manfully with the rest, and when they eased off to turn back they were surprised to observe that the stranger did not appear to be quite so much blown as they expected. "Now, then, young feller," said the stroke, with a grin, "try to keep up with the procession. Hit her up, boys. Hard all!" But, somehow, the stranger scratched along with the rest, and though the pace was something like forty-six as they passed Butcher-town, the victim serenely sawed away, and the bowman even imagined that he splashed less than any oar in the boat. When they finally drew up to the float, and while they were panting for wind, spitting cotton, and wiping their dripping faces, the "passenger" looked around, with a childlike smile upon his unflushed face, and softly remarked, "Why didn't you spurt her!" "Spurt!" panted the stroke; "why—er—what the—er—I say, young feller, where did you come from?" "From New York, gentlemen," replied the stranger, modestly, as he slipped on his coat and started up the wharf. "My name Hanlan—Edward Hanlan—and I hope to see you all at Vallejo on Thursday. Good morning."

A NEW book on Japan has just been published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, in noticing which the *World* says:—"This is a history of the travels and researches in Japan, undertaken by Professor Rein at the cost of the Prussian Government. It is more comprehensive, exhaustive, and satisfactory than the work of Mr. F. D. Adams, hitherto the best on the subject; it is, moreover, up to date the journeys of which it treats having been undertaken in 1874 and 1875. It does not profess to be a pocket compendium of information, but it is a solid valuable work of reference."

THE *St. James's Budget* says:—An ingenious method of putting a check upon untimely chatter has been devised by a schoolmaster, who was charged recently at the Thames Police Court with assaulting one of his pupils. The defendant, it appeared, being displeased with a boy who persisted in talking during lesson-time, fastened a strap with a slip-knot around the tongue of the offender, and then tied the other end of the strap by a piece of string to a chair, thus effectually preventing a continuance of the nuisance. After hearing the evidence, the magistrate dismissed the summons on the ground that the tying of the boy's tongue was not any real punishment. The boy seemed to have been much given to talking, and it was therefore thought advisable to degrade him the same as by putting a fool's cap on his head or tying the arms of a boy given to fighting. "The degradation of the boy was intended as an example to the school." There is some common-sense in this view of the case, and it would be interesting to try the effect of the tongue-tying system in the House of Commons. The spectacle of several Irish members with their tongues tied to the Speaker's chair would, there can be little doubt, tend to shorten debate, and for the moment at least put an end to "obstruction;" but, on the other hand, it is not pleasant to consider what would happen when the tongues were at last loosened.

A curious reminiscence of Japan as it was thirty years ago is incidentally furnished in the story of one Zeniya Gohei, a merchant who, in the days of the Bakufu Government, was guilty of the heinous crime of engaging in unlicensed commerce with foreigners. Zeniya, for this offence, underwent a term of imprisonment, and on his release disposed of any property that remained to him to procure the means of livelihood. This, however, is not the episode in his career which recently made him a subject of interest to the vernacular press, but the fact that among his belongings was a celebrated chattel called "the barometer stone" (*Sei-u-Seki*). This piece of rock is naturally of a pinkish white colour, but it has a chameleon-like property of altering its hue whenever a change of weather is imminent. Should rain be overhead, it begins to look green as much as two days beforehand, and should a storm be brewing it assumes a dark aspect. So far as we are aware, no mineral recorded in Occidental catalogues exhibits this wonderful sensibility to atmospheric influences, and if Mr. Zeniya's stone be a veritable affair, it is indeed a curiosity. The *Yomi-uri Shimbun*, from which we quote these details, says that, after Zeniya's mishap, the stone came into the possession of the House of Mayeda (in Joshiu), and that it is to be presented to His Majesty the Emperor on the completion of the Imperial Palace.

SOCIALLY, New York is under a spell which exceeds and includes beauty. Poker possesses us. The game of the club and the bar room has been taken into half of the parlors of the city. It has all but driven whist from the tables of wealth and fashion. Women are especially infatuated with it. The daintiest and most circumspect girls bluff and bet like old gamblers. Playing for money is no longer an indulgence in wickedness, to blush for and whisper about, but a common and reprehensible diversion. A five-cent ante and a dollar limit are the usual conditions, and you are ignorant of the game if you don't know that \$10 may easily be lost or won in an evening at that rate. The belle without her box of poker chips is nowadays poorly outfitted for the entertainment of friendly callers; and it will no longer do for a young man to go out for evening visits with only car fare in his pockets. The excitement of gaming is naturally greater to women than men, and yet I think they do better playing, as a rule, by reason of their habitual self-control, quickness of perception, and concealment of purpose. It may be said of this new rage for parlor gambling that very often it goes beyond mere sport. A five-dollar pot has too much in it for the feminine mind of any but an heiress to contemplate without sordid emotion. And there are the fellows to whom \$10 is the sum and substance of a week's spending money, if not of wages. Think of the mental struggle requisite to render them smiling losers.—*New York Letter*.

Now that Mr. Holloway, of pill and ointment fame, has joined the great majority, a good deal of attention has been attracted to the trade in which he made so colossal a fortune. From the multiplicity of advertisements of patent medicines and from the immense quantity of such drugs in the market, one can get a fair idea of how many people there are who are ready to swallow any amount of glaring testimonials in reference to the efficacy of patent nostrums, as well as the

nostrums themselves. It has hitherto been believed that the United States held the rather equivocal honour of being the principal representative of the quack medicine trade, for nearly one and all of the writers who have devoted their time and abilities to writing such compilations as "The Truth about America," "The United States Unveiled," and tomes of like nature, are unanimous in their outspoken criticism of the manner in which patent drugs are thrust before the attention of the public. Statistics show, however, that the trade in Great Britain has grown to surprising dimensions. Official returns prove that, during the twelve months ending March 31, 1881, stamps were sold for 16,627,131 packages of patent drugs, yielding a revenue of £140,000. "If all these medicines were made of bread and coloured water," says the *Whitehall Review*, "there would be little fault to find; but inasmuch as a great many of them contain poisons in various forms, it seems a fair contention that the Government should step in and cause each nostrum to be analysed, and the sale of such as are poisonous to be regulated by the act applying to the sale of poisons."

Proper precautions with regard to the sale of patent drugs are undoubtedly very necessary. Every now and then one hears of fatal cases arising from over-indulgence in "infallible specifics;" and statistics show that, although they may not meet with much public attention, these cases are by no means of unusual occurrence. The *Whitehall Review* takes a sound, common-sense view of the situation, but appends a few clauses that are somewhat remarkable. For example, in speaking of the necessary precautions to be adopted, Japan is classed with "barbarous countries," although the journal in question applauds the methods pursued in this country to limit the sale of patent drugs. In Japan during 1883, it states, there were applications to prepare and sell 148,091 patent and secret medicines, of which 8,592 were prohibited, 9,918 ordered to be discontinued, and 70,943 still remain to be reported on. We do not know whether to be more surprised at the rate with which statistics travel or the profound knowledge of the *Whitehall Review*. The issue before us is dated January 10th, 1884, so that the information published cannot but be regarded as a most laudable example of editorial—and telegraphic—enterprise.

But to return to the advertisements of patent medicines, one finds that this branch affords employment, especially in the United States, to a perfect army of sign-painters and bill-posters. Pears' soap has found an illustrator in a Royal Academician; Eno's fruit salt prints testimonials from the "leading members of the medical fraternity;" Wright's coal tar soap is a specific for all "ills to which human flesh is heir," and is "recommended by the entire medical profession," probably with one or two unimportant exceptions; while Price's rheumatic oil is equally efficacious in "curing broken hearts or restoring a lost limb." Not to quote from the flaring announcements of a perfect host of others, we would simply recall the once highly honoured "Buchu." It is well-known that no place is sacred from the vandalistic paint-brush of the enthusiastic sign-painter, and that even the grand "Palisades" of the Hudson River and the rocks in the Falls of Niagara have borne evidences of

their tireless energy. But there are some times and some places when and where even the most long-suffering of mortals is disposed to rebel. After travelling for some days in the picturesque wildernesses of Kentucky, passing on the last day of the trip through primeval forests and meeting only occasional log cabins, one arrives finally at the rude hotel built close by the entrance of the famous Mammoth Cave. Nothing can exceed the wild beauty of this place, and the freedom from social conventionalities and the total separation from the busy life of the work-a-day world render the spot in every way attractive. And so it does seem almost too hard, after just having congratulated one's self on escaping from the staring evidences of modern civilisation, on strolling through the forest gloom to the mouth of the great Cave to find painted in glaring capitals, just above the main entrance, the stern *memento mori* "USE HELMBOLD'S BUCHU."

JUDGES SAWYER, Hoffman and Sabin, sitting in bank in the United States Court on the 26th ult., rendered a decision on several questions arising from the Chinese habeas corpus cases. The first point touched on was the right of the Chinese to habeas corpus, which was conceded. When produced in Court the petitioner is in the custody of the Court, and may be admitted to bail. If examination discloses him to be without the right to land, then he shall be committed to the custody of the master of the vessel which brought him into port, provided the vessel is here. The Court has no right to detain a ship on account of having brought passengers here who had *prima facie* evidence of their right to come here, when such right was not a right in reality, but a fraudulent assumption. As soon as the President's order for their return can be received, the remanded prisoners must be returned to China. They have no right to a jury trial, no more than the passengers of a quarantined ship. In conclusion, the Court remarked that it considered a commission from Congress necessary to dispose of such cases, if they continued to come as they had, for the Court could not hear them all, and would not. The decision, if such it can be called, settles the cases of about fifteen bogus "traders" who have been remanded.—*Alfa*.

A Boston telegram in the San Francisco papers, dated 6th February, says that the funeral of Wendell Phillips took place to-day from Faneuil Hall. Many people passed reverently by the coffin, before the guard of honor, and then quietly departed from the hall. After the public had withdrawn, and just previous to the removal of the remains, a plaster cast of the head was taken at the request of the family. The funeral procession then reformed and the coffin was borne to the old Granary burying ground, on Fremont street. The streets were again crowded and the streets in the vicinity of the burial ground were densely packed with people. There were no formal ceremonies in the graveyard, and the coffin containing the remains of the dead philanthropist was placed in the Phillips family tomb, which is also the final resting-place of Phillips' father, mother, and brother.

THE Tokiyo Tramway Company finds its business so profitable that it contemplates laying a new line from Asakusa-bashi to Yorodzuyo-bashi. It is pleasant to learn that enterprise of this nature is successful, but, at the same time,

one cannot help thinking that if the Tramway Company is to spread itself abroad to an unlimited extent, some steps should be taken to protect the streets against the destruction its operations involve. The main street of Tokyo, from Shimbashi to Asakusa, which used to be a firm, well metalled, road, is now a mottled causeway of stony hillocks and muddy lakelets. At the time of laying the tramway, we predicted that this would be the result, and indeed very little engineering acumen was required to foresee it. Before long a great part of the line will have to be relaid, and then the company's ledgers will not tell quite so happy a tale. The pity is that these sort of enterprises in Japan are not open to foreign co-operation. Westerns have paid for their experience, and might save the Japanese the necessity of buying theirs dearly. Of the many lucrative operations now struggling into a tardy existence, there is not one which does not offer a most promising field for foreign capital and intelligence. Railways, tramways, mines, fisheries, manufactures, banking—all these things and many others, might be developed with immensely increased rapidity and to much greater advantage were it possible for foreigners to unite with Japanese. But unfortunately, it is not possible. The grotesque chimæra that when Japan offers to open her country and let all comers share alike with her own people in whatever industrial or commercial opportunities they may find here, she is only laying a plot to get them into her power in order that she may ill-treat and despoil them—this ridiculous chimæra, unworthy to be discussed by children out of the nursery, effectually bars the path of prosperous enterprise.

THE year 1883 is remarkable in astronomical annals as having a record the most prolific in sun-spots that has been known since the invention of the telescope. Not only the number but also the size of these spots were remarkable. Many of them were quite visible to the naked eye, and attained diameters four, five, and six times as large as that of our planet. Never before, too, were so many measurements taken of solar eruptions and flames. Every day these were observed raising themselves to considerable elevations above the sun's disc. A coincidence worthy of attention is the exceptional frequency and violence of earthquakes during the same period. It is strange to look back, by the light of these solar fires, at the theories that obtained during the first half of the present century. Sir William Herschel believed the sun to be habitable and habited. By him and by Wilson alike, the great planet was supposed to consist of a globe as massive as that of the earth, enveloped in an immense atmosphere crowned by an eternal dome of resplendent clouds. The red protuberances which showed themselves on the edges of the moon at periods of total solar eclipse were, in those days, either not attributed to the sun, or supposed to be mere optical delusions. Many scientists thought that the sun had no more caloric than a block of ice, and that the luminous heat we receive from him was a subjective phenomenon. Such theories are never likely to be revived again. In 1883 more than 5,000 spots and protuberances were observed for a single meridian. Their dimensions were variable. The inferior envelope of red resting upon the white solar surface is about 5,000 miles thick. From this envelope, which is called the chromosphere, immense tongues of

flame shoot up to heights of from fifty, to two or three hundred, thousand miles. Young, in October, 1880, observed a protuberance which, in the course of an hour, raised itself to a height of three hundred and fifty thousand miles, and then, separating into filaments, vanished. The temperature of these flames is so tremendous that no chemical combination known to us could exist there. They represent "a fire so hot that it no longer burns." Measured by terrestrial standards they may be said to have a temperature of 10,000°—a temperature compared with which molten iron would seem like a mass of snow.

CONTRABAND goods, stated to be ship's stores, have come under the observation of the Custom House authorities in such large quantities lately (says the *Alta* Feb. 7), that the Surveyor has determined to seize all excessive lots in future. Yesterday, Deputy Surveyor Brown and his men found fifteen bags of live turtles and a lot of eels on the steamer *Arabic*, and confiscated them because they were not on the manifest. They were brought from China by a member of the crew, who attempted to retain possession on the ground that they were ship's stores, but without avail. Since the haul of opium Tuesday afternoon, there has been nothing of note discovered beyond fifty handkerchiefs and the turtles and eels. In the latter capture, the Custom House people have a sort of family of white elephants, as the Appraisers' Building does not boast of an inmate who is either a "turtologist" or an expert on eatable snakes, and what the illicit animals ought to be fed on during their appraisement is a puzzle for all hands. After effecting this seizure, Deputy Brown filed informations with Collector Sullivan against Captain Pearne of the *Arabic*, Captain Berry of the *City of Peking*, and Captain Rogers of the *Newbern* (from Mexican ports), for violation of the revenue laws in bringing into port certain articles which were not specified on the manifests of their respective cargoes. The Collector has not yet determined upon his action in the premises, and until he has the nature of the contraband stuff will not be made known.

THE *Alta* says:—A "Cobden Free-Trade Club" has been organized in Sacramento. Its members profess to be animated only by a desire to study the tariff question; but they must not be surprised if they find sundry intelligent newspaper organs of public opinion barking at their heels and accusing them of being "bribed with British gold." That is a lie which was told a great many years ago and can now be urged against anybody without any sort of moral responsibility. At least, that is the conclusion to be deduced from the practice of some of our (otherwise) esteemed contemporaries.

AN Emergency meeting of the Yokohama Lodge No. 1092 E.C. was held at the Masonic Hall on Monday afternoon to perform the funeral rites over the body of Bro. H. N. Tileston, an old and highly respected member of the Lodge. The meeting was attended by a large number of visitors from the other Lodges in the District. After the opening ceremony the procession, which included more than fifty Brethren, was joined by numerous friends of the deceased. The cortege passed up Main Street to the Cemetery, where the impressive service for the dead was read by the Right Worshipful District Grand Master, Bro. C. H. Dallas. After the cere-

mony the procession was reformed and returned to the Hall when the Lodge was closed. Bro. Tileston came to Japan in 1868, and was in the employ of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company and the O. & O. Company. He left Japan in 1882, and returned a few days ago. By his kindness of heart and genial disposition he endeared all those with whom he came in contact, and the Masonic fraternity by his untimely death will lose a good friend and Brother.

CONSIDERABLE jealousy and ill-feeling has existed for some time in the bosoms of certain Shanghai horsemen, which culminated at the conclusion of the recent meeting at Hongkong in a case in the Police Court of the Crown Colony. It was alleged by Mr. Brandt that he was crossed, and his pony and himself struck by Mr. Nickels in the Champions' Race, and it is to be inferred from the report of the case that by these means he lost the race, in fact Mr. Brandt in his evidence referred to the occurrence as a "highway robbery." Mr. Bidwell, who was called as a witness for the complainant, said he saw nothing of the occurrence alleged by Mr. Brandt, although it was stated that Bidwell had told several persons that he saw the affair, and described what he saw. Mr. Wise, the magistrate dismissed the case in the following words:—"Under the circumstances, Mr. Brandt. I must dismiss the summons. The reason I do so is not so much because I consider the charge disproved, but that the evidence is too conflicting. I think you were quite justified in taking out the summons under the circumstances. I think the evidence of the witness Bidwell is most unsatisfactory. He admits that he went round to various people and made statements relating to this matter, and then he comes here and states in evidence that those statements were untrue. I do not think that under any circumstances his conduct can be looked upon with approbation."

A RECENT Baltimore journal publishes the following comical paragraph:—A scandal in which some very unusual incidents appear was brought to light by the filing of an application for a divorce by Henry Clark, a conductor in the employ of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Clark left his residence one evening lately, after telling his wife that he was going to leave that night for Martinsburg, W. Va. He did not go, however, but returned home at a late hour and retired to bed, his wife having already done so. Soon afterwards Mrs. Clark complained of a severe cramp, and begged her husband to get up and go to a drug store for medicine. He hastily drew on a pair of trousers and hurried upon his errand. His surprise may be imagined when, on looking down while in the drug store waiting for the medicine, he discovered that the trousers he wore were several inches too short for him. He felt something bulky in one of the pockets and putting his hand in he drew forth a roll of bills amounting to \$350. This settled it. He was sure they were not his trousers. It suddenly struck him that his presence at home was far more urgent than his wife's necessity for medicine and he hastened there, but the man who had invaded his home and with whom he had unwittingly changed clothing, had beaten a hasty retreat. The trousers which the latter had taken away belonged to the husband and contained only a few dollars. As the wife was not able to explain matters with satisfaction, the

husband ordered her to leave the house also, which command she immediately obeyed. The tell-tale trousers and contents were sent to the wife of the gay Lothario, who is a dignified old fellow of the best society and the head of a large family of grown children.

THE Pusan correspondent of the *Mainichi Shimbun* writes very despondingly of the state of affairs at that place. Trade has fallen off in a most unprecedented way. The export of rice, which constitutes the chief business at Pusan, was suddenly stopped owing to a great increase of the demand in the country, as the long drought of last year had effectually prevented any rice from reaching the great marts. Such universal depression in commerce has never before been experienced, and there is no end to bankruptcies among the Japanese merchants, while the people are starving. The natives in the neighbouring districts have suffered extreme want, and crowds of hungry beggars have flocked to Pusan. The authorities have done, and are doing, all in their power to relieve the great distress of the people; but all they can do fails to fill the mouths of the countless paupers.

A TELEGRAM has been received at the Foreign Office, Tokiyo, announcing the fact that a revolt has taken place in Canton. No particulars are given, but it seems probable that the affair is connected with the operations of the French in Tonquin. Popular feeling may have been excited either by a defeat sustained at Bac-ninh or by the withdrawal of the Chinese garrison without fighting. The latter appears to us the more likely contingency. The telegram is dated at Shanghai, March 7th, and as no intelligence has been forwarded since then, we may fairly assume that the revolt has not attained serious dimensions or caused any inconvenience to the foreign residents.

SIR HARRY PARKES has been appointed to represent Her Majesty at the Court of Seoul as well as that of Peking. We may conclude, therefore, that the treaty with Korea has been ratified, and Sir Harry will present the ratification as well as his credentials to the Korean Government some time in May or June. The news of the appointment will be received with satisfaction by Sir Harry's many friends in the East, and will further have the effect of removing all doubts as to Korea's national status in Great Britain's eyes.

A FRIGHTFUL mining accident is reported from Colorado. A telegram in the *Alla* from Denver, on January 24th, says:—A terrible explosion occurred at Crested Buttes, Gunnison county, at 7 o'clock this morning, in the Crested Buttes coal mine, in which from twenty-five to fifty miners are believed to have been killed. The explosion blocked the entrance to the mine. The full extent of the disaster is at present unknown. The mine is owned and operated by the Colorado Coal and Iron Company of this city, and employs from eighty to ninety miners in the shaft. No further particulars are at present obtainable. A *Times* Gunnison special says:—So far only meagre details have been received of the terrible explosion which occurred at 8 o'clock this morning in the Colorado Coal and Iron Company's mine, Crested Buttes. So far only the most meagre details have been received here, but the loss of life is supposed to be

terrible. There were sixty-seven men in the mine at the time. Of these, eleven, who were just entering, were thrown back to the entrance by the force of the explosion and have been rescued. One of these is dead and the others are badly injured. There are fifty-six men yet in the mine and they cannot be reached. They are all supposed to be dead. The explosion was of such force as to entirely wreck the engine and engine-house, which stood fully 100 feet from the entrance. It is supposed the explosion was caused by a leak in the air-compressor. The Crested Buttes people are doing all things possible to rescue the miners. Two specials have gone up from here with doctors and others on board.

"EACH of the projections on this piece of coral is a separate individual," said Professor Albert S. Bickmore, Superintendent of the American Museum of Natural History, in a lecture on "Corals and Coral Islands." "The coral animals do not grow separately," said Professor Bickmore. "They gather together in a hemispherical form at first. Only those on the outside are alive; the rest within are dead, and so it grows. Between two coral animals a third one grows, and when one gets bigger than its fellows a branch begins to grow. The sea rolls in and brings them their food. A natural break-water ground of a coral reef is stronger than any that can be made by the hand of man, for the stronger the sea that beats upon it, the more food is brought for the coral animals to gather with their little tentacles."

THE fire on the morning of the 12th inst. in Hikage-cho, Tokiyo, ranks among the most destructive by which Tokiyo has been visited this year. There seems to be no doubt that it was an incendiarism, since it broke out in the lumber-room of a bath-house. The flames spread in both directions and fully two hundred houses are said to have been destroyed. Hikage-cho is a narrow street running parallel to, and on the west of, Ginza, from Shinbashi to Shiba. It is an exceedingly populous part of the city, and the houses, though small, are occupied by thriving tradesmen. The loss of property on Tuesday morning was very serious.

ON the evening of the 16th instant a farewell dinner was given by the members of the Tokiyo Club to Mr. W. H. Denison, who proceeds to America by the mail of the 28th. Among the guests were their Excellencies Judge Bingham and Mr. Davidow, the Honorable P. Le Poer Trench, Chevalier E. M. Lanciare, Messrs. Yoshida, Ishibashi, Saito, &c. Covers were laid for twenty-four. Mr. Denison's health was drunk with great enthusiasm and the party broke up after a most agreeable evening.

OPINIONS vary considerably amongst the judges of the U.S. Courts in regard to Chinese claiming residence in America. The *Alla* of the 7th ult. has the following:—Wong Chi Hong, a passenger of the *Oceanic*, claiming previous residence, was discharged by Judge Sabin yesterday on the evidence of his Consular certificate and his bare unsupported oath to the effect that he was formerly a wood-chopper in the northern part of the State. The Court's holding was that the Chinese Government appeared to be dealing honestly with the United States in the matter of the issuance of certificates, and he saw no reason

why the Consular certificates brought by Chinese emigrants should not be considered as good as the paper of any other Government. At any rate, there was no proof in Wong Chi Hong's case of the certificate having been fraudulently drawn up, and he would order the release of the petitioner. There will probably be a rush of Chinese habeas corpus cases to Judge Sabin's Court in the near future.

ONE of the most useful discoveries made to benefit shipowners is that of the anti-fouling paint for vessels' bottoms which a Mr. Dennys has invented. Mr. Dennys, at one time a newspaper editor in Hongkong, and more recently connected with the Civil Service at Singapore, first started a company at this latter port to take over his patent, and now an English company is being organised. Prior to these steps being taken, full and complete experiments had been made, so as to efficiently test the value of the paint. These experiments successfully proved that, while barnacles and sea-tangle stick to ordinary paint, the anti-fouling composition contains matter which wholly prevents this. The test was made of merely painting patches of the new stuff on the hull of an ordinarily painted vessel. The result, after a voyage, was that, while the hull had generally become coated with barnacles, none of these adhered to the anti-fouling paint. The value of a discovery like this—one that has long been anxiously awaited—is of vast value to the shipping world.—*Whitehall Review*.

THE visitors to the Tokiyo Library (*Toshokwan*), during February, numbered 9,512, and the volumes lent, 39,231. The visitors to the Zoological Garden (*Dobutsu-zen*) of the Ueno Museum, during the same period, numbered 7,854; the visitors to the Museum, 5,332; the visitors to the library of the Museum, 404; the visitors to the Museum of Education (*Kioiku Hakubutsukwan*), 5,429, of whom 4 were foreigners; the visitors to the library of that Museum, 501, and the number of books lent, 2,611.

WE read in an Italian journal that, during 1883, the number of applications made for dispensations to marry within the prohibited degrees in Italy were 2,031, of which 1,569 were granted and 462 refused. Of these applications 1,373 were for marriages between brothers and sisters-in-law, and 145 for marriages between and uncles and nieces. Dispensations were granted to only 29 of the latter class of applicants.

THE effective army of France for the current year is stated to consist of 518,642 men, of whom 27,726 are gendarmes. This total shows an increase of 2,397 men as compared with that for 1883. Algeria absorbs 53,306 men; Tunis, 15,000, and Tonquin, 16,000, so that the number actually remaining in France is 434,336.

A FIRE broke out at half-past twelve on the 11th inst., at Neribeicho, Kanda, resulting in the destruction of ten houses. One child from a neighbouring school was reported missing, but it has not yet been ascertained whether or no it was killed.

Two years ago, when I was in Nice (says the correspondent of an Indian paper), Signor Garcia visited that favorite watering place, in order to enjoy the delights of the neighbouring Monaco, and its Monte Carlo gambling table, the last disreputable refuge of the gambling

table in Europe, that is, of the official and lawfully-constituted gambling table. Few men had a reputation equal to that of Signor Garcia in that particular line. Rumour reported his immense wealth, chiefly the result of gambling, and now rumour has it that he is about to hand it all over to a Trappist Monastery in France, and to become himself a brother of the order. On one occasion, Signor Garcia is said to have won eighty thousand pounds in one night at Homburg, before the suppression of the German gambling-tables. On another occasion, he is said to have lost more than a hundred thousand pounds at a single sitting, and all this he did, gains and losses, with the same imperturbable countenance, as if neither gain nor loss affected him in the slightest degree, not a muscle of his countenance betraying either joyful or sorrowful emotions throughout! So admirable, indeed, was the self-control of Garcia that the Duke de Morny, one of the most noted gamblers of modern times, said to him on one occasion that he did not believe another man in existence could win or lose so much with such perfect equanimity. The Trappist Communities are amongst the most severe in asceticism. The brothers rise at four in the morning, in winter as well as in summer, assemble in the chapel for devotion, partake of nothing but the most plain fare, wear hair shirts for mortification of the flesh, work hard at manual labor all day, and take their repasts in absolute silence. Religious works are read for them at their meals, and the usual services are sung and recited in the chapels, but, with these exceptions, they do not hear the sound of a human voice? There is only one Monastery of the order in Great Britain.

JUDGING by the provision of transports which the French Government is making, there is every intention of keeping the army of occupation in Tonquin up to its full strength. The *Petit Provençal*, of Marseilles gives a list of vessels recently chartered to carry men and material to Cochin China. They are, the *Ville-de-Metz* (2,310 tons), at a rate of 86 francs per ton for the voyage out only; the *Chalons* (3,053 tons), at 175,000 francs a month; the *Cormorin* (3,546 tons) at 175,000 a month; the *Poitou* (1,926 tons); the *Saint Germain* (3,019 tons); the *Savoie* (2,574 tons) and the *Volga* (1,513). Besides these, seven English troopships, first class steamers of from two to three thousand tons, have been chartered at 43.75 francs per ton for the voyage out. They are the *Ashbrooke*, the *Oakfield*, the *Standard*, the *Roxburg*, the *Cilurnum*, the *Brescoe*, and the *Mascotte*. This makes, in all, a fleet of fifteen large transports capable of carrying fully ten thousand men.

CYCLING, says the *St. James's Budget*, has grown into the proportions of a national recreation with unprecedented rapidity since the invention of the modern tricycle; and, if we are to believe the president of the West Kensington Tricycle Club, it now numbers among its votaries not merely poets, professors, legislators, and Ministers, but also her Most Gracious Majesty herself. But it does not need fashionable or august patronage to commend an amusement so well suited, as Sir Charles Dilke observed, to the needs of the middle-class Englishman of the present day. For that individual is more and more becoming essentially a town-dweller; and, if he is to take exercise at all, must do it in a form which can be pursued on what Mr. Austin Dobson calls "paven stones," or at any rate

suburban lanes. Herein the tricycle has advantages over the outrigger, or the football, or even the leather and willow. A horse, it is true, will do as well; but the "stomach of a horse is too heavy for the half-pay establishment," as Captain Clutterbuck put it, and also for the middle-class urban resident, who is not always wealthy. Tricycling is eminently cheap; it is healthy; it is in some respects an athletic sport, and it can be carried on, as Englishmen and Englishwomen like their diversions to be carried on, in the open air; for all which reasons there is no ground to suppose that its popularity will not become greater than ever—especially if certain of our roads, in the home counties and elsewhere, at present justly avoided of tricyclists, be put into a condition more suited for wheeled carriages.

It will be seen from our telegraphic advices that Bac-ninh has fallen. The defence appears to have been a mere fiasco. The French losses are stated at 72 men wounded. It will probably turn out that, as we recently predicted, the Chinese garrison evacuated that place so soon as it became quite plain that the French meant to take it. This was found to be not an unfrequent propensity of Chinese garrisons in former wars with Western Powers. In the case of Bac-ninh, too, it is more than probable that the Chinese commanders were under orders to avoid fighting, since a too energetic resistance might be followed by results which the Government at Peking is naturally anxious to avert. We shall doubtless have the particulars in a few days. Nothing could be more satisfactory than the news in its present form. Two things were to be desired, the speedy fall of the place, and its capture without severe fighting. Both have been accomplished, and if China can now control her own people sufficiently to pursue her policy of inaction, and France persuade herself to refrain from harsh demands, there is no apparent reason why the trouble should not end here.

WE published a telegram from London on Thursday which announced that a battle was imminent near Suakim. Our telegraphic intelligence this morning gives the welcome news that the engagement resulted in a decisive victory for British arms with "inconsiderable" loss. It is to be hoped that the tide has turned in Egyptian affairs, and that the result of this battle will have some moral weight with the hostile chiefs.

THE American bark *Pearl*, Captain Howes, arrived at San Francisco on the 6th ultimo, after a passage of thirty-five days from Hakodate, via Otaru. She had a cargo of timber and brimstone.

THE Pacific mail steamship *City of Peking*, Captain Berry, bringing the American mail, with dates from San Francisco to the 21st ultimo, arrived here this morning.

THE German bark *Marie*, Captain Ipland, sails for Takao this evening.

THE Rev. J. C. Davison will preach at the Union Church to-morrow (Sunday) 16th inst.

THE American ship *Ranier*, of Bath, from Philadelphia to this port with kerosene, was wrecked on the 2nd January, on the Marshall Group of islands. It is believed that the gun-

boat *Monocacy* has been sent to look for the crew.

A TELEGRAM from London has been received in Hongkong announcing the abandonment by the crew of the ship *Georgie*, from Cardiff to that port.

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of the "List of Japanese Lighthouses, Lightships, Beacons, and Buoys for 1884," issued from the Lighthouse Department.

THE American ship *Carondelet*, Captain Stetson, sails for Nagasaki on the 14th inst., where she will load coals for Hongkong.

THE British barkentine *Guam* is reported to have been chartered to load rice at Kobe, for Auckland, New Zealand, at £2 per ton.

THE British steamer *Bengloe*, Captain Webster, left Hongkong for this port on Sunday, the 9th instant.

THE *Sapphire*, corvette (12), Captain J. R. T. Fullerton, arrived here on the 13th inst. from Kobe.

MR. SATOW'S PROMOTION.

THE appointment of Mr. ERNEST SATOW to be HER MAJESTY'S Agent and Consul-General at Bangkok is announced by the London journals. To Mr. SATOW's friends in Japan the news is, in some respects, a surprise. As a sinologue his attainments are of so admirable, we had almost said so wonderful, a character, that there seems to be something contrary to the fitness of things in his removal from a sphere where his labours were long employed to such excellent effect. On the other hand, it was always felt that the official rewards within his immediate reach in Japan were not commensurate with his merits. He might have commanded, years ago, anything the Consular service in this country had to offer, but his value at the Legation was too thoroughly appreciated to leave any doubt as to the expediency of keeping him there. His nomination to the local rank of Second Secretary of Legation, in 1876, was an exceptional expedient, adopted to render his services available in a position otherwise incommensurate with his claims. It was welcomed, at the time, as a fitting, though somewhat tardy, acknowledgment of his great merit, and as an evidence that HER MAJESTY'S Government understood their obligation to open for him some route to promotion more rapid than the monotonous path of a Consul in Japan. In the sequel of this step his new appointment seems natural enough, though it is difficult fully to endorse any course which removes him from this country.

Mr. SATOW came to Japan in 1861, that is to say, at a time when the polity of the country defied the comprehension of foreign statesmen, and when conditions had to be dealt with for which no precedent was found in any blue-book. It happened very often, as we now know, that they were dealt with in

the rough and ready way which commends itself to strong men in perplexity, and that a great deal of matter was consequently provided for the criticism of future historians. Want of information was the chief stumbling block. Her Majesty's Legation did not then possess the equipment of finished linguists it can boast now. Men who could speak even a smattering of the language were few and far between. Indeed, as an interpreter, one only, Mr., now Baron, ALEXANDER VON SIEBOLD, might have been called competent, and even he was versed in the spoken language alone: neither his studies nor his inclinations had yet led him to grapple with the bewildering intricacies of Chinese idiographs. Under these circumstances, Mr. SATOW's wonderful powers of assimilating linguistic knowledge soon brought him into prominence. His notions of mastering the language were so thorough that he is said to have conceived and accomplished the highly unattractive project of living more than a twelve-month after the most rigorously Japanese fashions. Whether or no this be strictly correct, it is certain that he soon attained a standard of scholarship which very few, inside or outside the British Legation, have ever aspired to approach; scholarship so perfect that it could afford to be liberal, and to recognise in others merits which by comparison were inappreciable. Before many years he was universally acknowledged to be the first sinologue in Japan, and was able to procure information invaluable to those charged with the care of British interests in this country. It is generally supposed, indeed, that his influence upon the policy of the Legation was almost creative; but without going so far, we may certainly say that it must have been very large. In one point, perhaps, tradition has exaggerated both the incentive furnished by Mr. SATOW's researches and the initiative taken by the chief whom he served so well and by whom his services were so fully appreciated. We allude to Sir HARRY PARKES' policy of seeking a higher treaty-making power than the TAIKUN; a policy which led him, in 1865, to demand the MIKADO's ratification at Osaka; and, in 1867, to visit Kiyoto itself as the guest of a sovereign whose power to consummate the scheme of mediatization was openly doubted by most of the Foreign Representatives. Mr. HARRIS' recently published diary has shown, what accurate scholars, indeed, already knew, that from the first the SHOGUN never disguised his real status, but always acknowledged in the throne a power without whose endorsement his acts were not binding on the nation. Apart from this, however, there can be no question that Mr. SATOW exercised a large influence on the official procedure of those difficult days, and it is not on record that his influence was ever exercised in a mistaken direction. Undoubtedly, therefore, the Government has

only given him what he deserves in nominating him to a post from which subsequent promotion will be easy. Japan must consent to dispense with his services until he can come back here to a position worthy of his attainments and record. We are sincerely sorry to lose him, and will not here attempt to estimate the loss, but it was impossible that he could have remained always in Japan without some departure from routine even more considerable than the step taken to keep him in Tokiyoin 1876.

GENERAL GORDON IN THE SOUDAN.

AFFAIRS in Egypt begin to wear a highly interesting aspect. To understand the telegrams that reach us, it is necessary to get a clear idea of the programme which General GORDON proposes to carry out, and which he has already partly fulfilled. His mission is both diplomatic and military, and he has gone to Egypt to pursue a policy which is eminently distasteful to him and which he regards as distinctly unwise. Before he left England, before, indeed, the QUEEN'S Government had asked him to return to the scene of his former labours, he declared that the Eastern Soudan was indispensable to Egypt, and that the real danger to be apprehended was not an advance of EL MAHDI northward, but the influence that would be excited throughout the whole of northern Africa by the spectacle of a conquering Mahommedan Power established on the frontiers of Egypt proper. "If the entire Eastern Soudan is surrendered to the MAHDI," he said, "the Arab tribes on both sides of the Red Sea will take fire," and "the whole of the Eastern question may be reopened." Much the same idea is entertained by General STONE, who lectured on Egyptian affairs, early in February, in New York. He pointed out that the Arabs came into Egypt in the 7th century, and held it for eight hundred years before they became, in their turn, subject to the Ottoman conquerors. The latter had only ruled during four centuries when they were put down by France and England, the tenacious Arab all the while clinging to his old home and always hoping to recover his old power. Had the French and English stepped resolutely into the place of the Turks whom they supplanted, General STONE thinks we should have heard little of EL MAHDI. But their vacillation was the Arab's opportunity; an opportunity which he desisted after centuries of patient waiting, and which he has seized with an ardour that will not be easily quenched. General GORDON'S statement of the case bears out this theory, but stops short of General STONE'S inferences. The former says that EL MAHDI is not a religious leader, but that he merely personifies popular discontent, and that the terrible oppression and corruption of Turkish rule, completely restored

after the Soudan ceased to have an English Governor-General, are at the root of the insurrection. If this view be correct, and there is no man living worthy of more credence on such a subject than GORDON, the apparent contradictions of Mr. GLADSTONE'S policy are in a great measure explained. It has been laid to the English statesman's charge that while invariably denouncing Turkish rule and seeking to circumscribe it, he is nevertheless ready to see the sway of another semi-barbarous Power established throughout a wide region of Africa. But if the followers of EL MAHDI are rebels against the villanies of Turkish Government; if, as GORDON declares, "nobody knowing the treatment to which the people of the Soudan were subjected can deny their justification to rebel," then, indeed, the direction which Mr. GLADSTONE'S sympathies have taken is easily comprehended.

To return, however, to General GORDON. He proceeded to Egypt under orders to effect the evacuation of the Soudan with the least possible delay, but entrusted with a discretionary power to modify his instructions according to emergencies. That he would modify them, there could be very little doubt, for he had declared that one of two courses alone was possible—to defend Khartoum at all risks, or to surrender to the MAHDI at discretion. His first object was to reach that place. This, in itself, was a matter of no little difficulty and peril. He decided to proceed by steamer up the Nile nearly as far as the Second Cataract. Disembarking there, he proposed to proceed, across the Nubian desert, to Abu Hammed, a distance of 200 miles; and from thence, up the Nile, past Berber to Khartoum. This route had been approved by Sir SAMUEL BAKER, but when it was known that the Sheikhs and other tribes between Suakim and Berber, whose friendship had been counted on, were fiercely hostile, grave fears were entertained for the General's safety. Ultimately, it was resolved to send a brigade of Bashi-Bazouks, 2,000 strong, to support him. Orders were then sent to Colonel COETLOGAN, the commandant at Khartoum, to hold that place at all risks until GORDON'S arrival, and to concentrate all the troops in the Soudan there. By these means it was expected that the General would find 17,000 troops there, and he was then either to evacuate or defend the place, treat with or fight the MAHDI, as he saw fit. Meanwhile, it was announced that EL MAHDI had left El Obeid, at the head of an army of 37,000 men, nine days before GORDON set out from Cairo, so that it became an open question which would reach Khartoum first. GORDON, however, sent a telegram to COETLOGAN instructing him to despatch a trusty messenger to meet EL MAHDI. It is said that the General's wonderful confidence seemed a little shaken when he started from Cairo. He was afraid, he

confessed, that he had come too late. If all went well, he expected to reach Abu Hammed on February the 9th and Khartoum two or three days later. His difficulties appear to have commenced at Korosko, between the First and Second Cataracts. Arriving there on the 2nd of February, he immediately entered the desert, but was evidently checked for a time, as a telegram, dated at Cairo February the 6th, said that "the tribes beyond Korosko were in full retreat and that General GORDON was unable to proceed." He did proceed, however, leaving his specie at Assouan, and on the 19th his safe arrival and cordial reception were telegraphed.

Then followed the recognition of EL MAHDI as SULTAN of Kordofan; a measure which, to imperfectly informed people at this end of the world, seemed inexplicable, but which was quite consistent with GORDON'S previously declared policy, that Darfur and Kordofan must be abandoned, but that the provinces lying to the east of the White Nile and North of Senaar should be retained. So far, events have not contradicted the theory that the movement in the Soudan is in its origin simply an uprising against oppression and corruption, though, if left unchecked, it may develop into something much more formidable. On the other hand, if England has to deal with it—and whatever may be said, she has now accepted the responsibility—she must adopt one of two alternatives—crush it by main force, or so far recognize its justice as to remove the irritating causes. Undoubtedly the latter is the course she will elect. GORDON, at any rate, has not left the world in any doubt as to the sympathy he feels for the Arabs in their revolt against Turkish misrule. His whole chance of success lies in his ability to convince the MAHDI of that sympathy; or, at any rate, of his Government's resolve to restore and guarantee the permanence of the juster régime which he himself was formerly instrumental in establishing. This, however, means that not Turkey, nor Egypt, is henceforth to be the chief Power in the Soudan, but Great Britain. Everything, in short points to an English protectorate on the banks of the Nile. The German Press plainly advocates that course, and it is said that the next Budget presented to the House of Commons will contain a provision for keeping 6,000 troops in Egypt.

With regard to the re-establishment of communication with Khartoum, General BAKER'S plan, as formulated at the beginning of February, was to operate from the line of Massowah and Kassalah. The nucleus of his army was to consist of black troops drawn from the various garrisons at the Red Sea ports. These, together with Bashi-Bazouks, Turks, and new levies would give him a force of 11,000 good fighting men. Moving *viâ* Massowah, he would have a friendly coun-

try in his flank and rear, instead of the deserts of the Suakim-Berber route. This scheme pre-supposed Abyssinian co-operation, and contemplated the relief of Khartoum by June. Meanwhile, as the telegrams explain, BAKER has failed signally in his attempt to relieve Sinkat. His black troops became disaffected owing to the removal of their leader ZOBEL Pasha, and the Egyptian contingent was quite useless. Seven English officers fell in the massacre that followed his disastrous advance from Trinkitat. It is to be sincerely hoped that this is the last we shall hear of similarly hopeless essays. If Englishmen are to fight in the Soudan, we trust it may no longer be in the company of such soldiers as HICKS and BAKER have had to lead.

THE OLD METHODS.

In a recent number of the *London and China Express* we find the following:—"Japan has for years past been crying out in all tones against the unfairness of the treaty stipulations binding her to Western Powers; every argument that could be drawn from morality, justice, self-interest, and all the other modes of appealing to a nation's feelings and interests have been employed to discredit the present treaties and tariff between Japan and the West. England, France, America, and the others are represented as highwaymen and bullies who broke into the calm and blissful seclusion of the land of the Rising Sun, and rudely demanded 'your trade on our own conditions or your life,' and who secured what they wanted as a burglar armed with a couple of revolvers might get what he wanted from an unarmed householder. We have heard much of this declamation for ten years past. The truth, however, is that the treaties almost as they exist now—the tariff was of course subsequently altered under a provision of the treaties themselves—were made by Mr. HARRIS, the American negotiator, during a residence at Shimoda, where he had neither force, nor show of force. With none but his interpreter, from his solitary post in the peninsula of Idzu, he obtained from the Japanese the treaties which are now represented as being extorted from an innocent, a terrified, an unwilling people at the mouth of the cannon by acute and unscrupulous envoys."

The methods employed in opening relations with Japan thirty years ago, and in extending those relations subsequently, have been discussed over and over again. Yet, since the Treaties are so much before the public just at present, and since a contemporaneous writer has shown himself so remarkably misinformed, it may be worth while to devote a few moments to a recapitulation of facts.

There is one very simple and decisive mode of approaching the question dealt with in the above quotation. Was Japan willing to make the Treaties, or

was she not? If the former, then indeed neither force nor menace was required. If the latter, by what means was her reluctance overcome? In answering these questions it is unnecessary to draw any deductions of our own from past events. The despatches of HER MAJESTY'S Representatives in Japan furnish all the information that is required. Lieutenant-Colonel NEALE, writing to Earl RUSSELL, Feb. 10th, 1863, said:—"The TAIKUN and his Government, as an undeniable fact, have fallen into national discredit by assenting to the much dreaded renewal of intercourse with Western people, *though indeed the assent was obtained under irresistible pressure.*" And again Sir R. ALCOCK, in a despatch to Earl RUSSELL, dated November 19th, 1864, wrote:—"All Treaties made with Japan have been forced upon it; and until great changes have taken place in the character, institutions, and government of the people, it is in vain to expect that Treaties so entered into can be maintained by a religious abstinence from the use of force as a means." We are not obliged, therefore, to concern ourselves about what Japanese writers or Japanese advocates have asserted. We have the unequivocal statements of HER MAJESTY'S Representatives at the Japanese Court, that this country's assent to the Treaties was obtained, in every case, by "force" and "irresistible pressure."

So much for the methods employed to secure the conclusion of the Treaties, in the first place. Let us now consider briefly how their ratification was brought about. Incidental to this part of our subject, and, indeed, inseparable from it, is the question of tariff revision. It will, therefore, be convenient to consider the two together, and to note, as preliminary to a proper understanding of the matter, that the Trade Regulations of 1858 contained the following provision:—"Five years after the opening of Kanagawa, the import and export duties shall be subject to revision, if either the British or Japanese Government desire it." The port of Kanagawa was opened on July the 1st, 1859, so that the tariff became subject to revision on July the 1st, 1864. It was a tariff fixed on a twenty per cent. basis.

On the 5th and 6th of September, 1864, the allied fleets of the Treaty Powers bombarded and destroyed the fortifications in the Strait of Shimonoseki, and in the sequel of these operations a Convention was signed, on October the 22nd, 1864, between the TAIKUN'S Government and the Foreign Representatives, by which the former undertook to pay "a gross sum of three million dollars for indemnities and expenses occasioned by the hostile acts of the Prince of NAGATO."

Eight months later, a portion of this money having been paid, Earl RUSSELL wrote as follows:—"HER MAJESTY'S Government are inclined to consider that the general interests of trade and of foreign relations with Japan would be best con-

sulted by an arrangement which should absolve the Government of the TAIKUN from two-thirds of the whole sum of three million dollars payable under the agreement of 1864; provided, first, that the port of Hiogo and the City of Osaka are opened for the trade and residence of the subjects of the Treaty Powers on the 1st of June, 1866; secondly, that the sanction of the MIKADO is formally given to the treaties already concluded by the TAIKUN with the Treaty Powers; and thirdly, that the duties on imports into Japan are generally reduced to 5 per cent., and shall in no case exceed 10 per cent."

In forwarding these instructions to Sir HARRY PARKES, Earl RUSSELL said:—"The reports recently received by HER MAJESTY'S Government from Japan, lead to the conclusion that a great social revolution is taking place in that country, and that a civil war may be the consequence. It would seem that these internal commotions arise almost exclusively from the relations that have of late years been established between Japan and foreign nations."

The position, then, was simply this. On the one side were the Foreign Representatives, entitled to ask for a revision of the tariff at any time after July 1st, 1864, as well as to compel payment by Japan of a large sum of money by way of indemnity for war expenses; but willing to remit two-thirds of that payment in exchange for three concessions, of which the MIKADO'S ratification of the Treaties, and a reduction of the tariff from twenty, to five, per cent. were two. On the other side was the TAIKUN'S Government, known to be threatened with a civil war as the result, almost exclusively, of its assent to the Treaties whose ratification was now sought.

Sir HARRY PARKES, thus instructed, and himself acknowledging that "the option of accepting the new proposals or continuing to pay the indemnity would, of course, be still reserved by the TAIKUN," resolved, nevertheless, to formulate those proposals from the flag-ship of the English Admiral, and to emphasize them by the presence of eight other vessels of war, the combined fleets of three Western Powers. We need not point to the inference this policy suggests: we need not point to Sir HARRY PARKES' own explanation that "the appearance at this moment, in Osaka Bay, of the Foreign Representatives, attended by a considerable naval force, is a proof of the determination of the foreign Governments to insist upon the performance of the Treaties": we need not point to the fact that in opening negotiations with the TAIKUN'S Ministers, he concluded his despatch by saying, "the Undersigned also takes this opportunity of informing their Excellencies that he is accompanied by Admiral KING, C.B., the Commander-in-Chief of all the naval forces of HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY in China and Japan, and that this letter is dated from his Ex-

cellency's flag-ship": we need not point to his subsequent declaration that "my colleagues and myself are fully sensible that we are indebted, for whatever success has attended our efforts, to the efficient and generous aid of our naval commanders:" we need not point to the despatch he addressed, also from the Admiral's flag-ship, to the TAIKUN, urging that Potentate to obtain the ratification of the Treaties by the MIKADO, and containing these words:—"A happy accord between the MIKADO, your MAJESTY, and the Daimios would ensure the maintenance of satisfactory relations between your people and foreigners, without prejudice to the interests or the independence of Japan. But disunion must bring upon your country the most grave disorders, as our Governments are firmly resolved to insist upon the faithful and complete observance by all parties, whether our enemies or our friends, of every condition of the Treaties concluded with your MAJESTY." None of these things need be specially mentioned, because the whole ground is succinctly and unequivocally covered by Sir HARRY PARKES' language to Earl RUSSELL after the successful termination of the negotiations at Osaka:—"In reporting that this important advantage has now been secured, I am very sensible, my Lord, that it would be presumptuous in me to lay claim to any other credit than that of not neglecting an opportunity of completing, in co-operation with my colleagues, the work to which they and my predecessors had so long devoted themselves, and which had been signally advanced by the affair of Shimonoseki. That blow, however, proved insufficient in itself alone to gain the end that is now attained. It will be in the memory of your Lordship that, after CHOSHU'S batteries were destroyed, ABÉ BUNGO NO KAMI was sent by the TAIKUN to Kiyoto, at the instance of the Representatives, to move the MIKADO to give his sanction to the Treaties. The opposition, however, was still too strong to allow of these representations being effectual. On this occasion, however, the presence of the TAIKUN himself at Kiyoto, attended by his Ministers and a considerable force, furnished a most favorable opportunity for the consideration of the question. He saw also that the double dangers by which he was threatened—those arising out of his civil struggle with CHOSHU, as well as prospective difficulties with foreign Powers—rendered some decisive effort to strengthen his position indispensable. And the appearance of the allied fleet in the Bay of Osaka gave him an opportunity of taking up the foreign question with a degree of energy which he otherwise would not have ventured to exert."

A careful perusal of these words renders the whole situation perfectly plain. First, we have the Treaties concluded by the TAIKUN under duress, as Sir R. ALCOCK and Colonel NEALE frankly admit. Then,

we have an anti-foreign party urging the MIKADO to refuse his ratification, and hoping to stir up a civil war by the aid of that refusal. Next, we have the first blow struck at that party by the bombardment of Shimonoseki. And finally, we have a fleet sent to Osaka for the purpose of convincing both MIKADO and TAIKUN that the only way to secure Japan from "grave disorders," if not from a loss of independence, was to ratify and observe every condition of the Treaties.

To guard against any misconception, it will be well to record here our firm persuasion, that the policy pursued by Sir HARRY PARKES in this instance was the most sagacious and humane he could have followed. It was too late to think of abrogating the Treaties. Whatever the method of obtaining them originally, their ratification was no longer a matter of choice but of absolute necessity. Japan was threatened by a civil war through the machinations of a party which sought to make the MIKADO'S anti-foreign attitude a pretext for revolt. The only way to avert that peril, as well as to assist the TAIKUN against enemies whom his relations with foreigners had ostensibly created, was to secure the MIKADO'S sanction to the treaties, and thus brand with the stigma of rebels all those who continued to advocate the expulsion of foreigners. Sir HARRY PARKES' despatches show that he was fully aware of all these things, and that his display of force was in reality designed to serve the best interests of both sides. The result justified his forecast. But, on the other hand, it is merely playing with equivocal expressions to deny that force was used in procuring both the conclusion and the ratification of the Treaties.

It will naturally occur to our readers to enquire what reason Japan has to complain of pressure which was put upon her with results beneficial to all parties. Here it is that foreign writers, so far as we can judge, misinterpret her contention. With the fact that the treaties were concluded and ratified under duress, the people of this country, or, at any rate, the intelligent classes, do not find any fault. They have long ago recognised the advantage and necessity of foreign intercourse. But they urge, and justly, we think, that the provisions of treaties obtained under such circumstances, ought not to be permanently binding. Let us see, for a moment, how this argument applies to the question of tariff. The three proposals, formulated at Osaka as alternatives for the payment of the Shimonoseki Indemnity, were, the sanction of the Treaties by the MIKADO, the opening of Hiogo and Osaka, and the revision of the tariff on a five per cent. basis. With regard to the second proposal, "the Japanese Ministers," we quote Sir HARRY PARKES, "did not hesitate to state, with great frankness, in their verbal discussions, that they believed themselves unable to protect foreigners from outrage at the

hands of that armed and dangerous class who might be prompted to commit aggressions, either by their own fanatical feelings, or at the instigation of that faction who were opposed to the TAIKUN," and that, although "it would severely tax their resources, they preferred paying the indemnity to the responsibility of the protection of a foreign community in the vicinity of Kiyoto." The first proposal they acceded to with great difficulty, and the third appears to have obtained their assent at once. They agreed, in short, without comment or objection to a request that the tariff should be changed from a twenty per cent., to a five per cent., basis. There is not in the history of the world another instance of such sweeping complaisance. The reason of it is not far to seek. In the eyes of the TAIKUN'S Ministers, tariff questions sunk into utter insignificance by the side of the incomparably greater issues that were at stake. "We can perceive," Sir HARRY PARKES wrote, on his arrival at Osaka, "that the internal affairs of the country are seriously disturbed, and that we have arrived at a critical period in the history of the TAIKUN'S administration. He is about to enter on a struggle with a powerful Daimio, CHOSHU, on the successful issue of which the maintenance of his supremacy may depend, and while embarrassed with these hostilities he has to contend, at the same time, with a strong opposition to his policy at the MIKADO'S Court, which may at any time take an active form and add materially to his difficulties." It was not likely that at such a moment as this, and with only ten days to answer proposals formulated by Foreign Representatives having a powerful fleet at command, the TAIKUN'S Ministers would pause to chaffer about rates of import duty. They sanctioned the five per cent. proposal with almost contemptuous indifference, and Sir HARRY PARKES was able to tell his Government, "we have relinquished no portion of the indemnity, although two of the three conditions we were willing to receive in exchange have been secured." On the 1st of July, 1864, the original tariff became subject to revision at the request of either of the high contracting parties. On the 24th of November, 1865, the Treaty Powers obtained its revision on their own terms, which they dictated from behind the guns of a powerful fleet at a time when the Government of the country was within appreciable distance of civil war. On the 1st of July, 1872, the revised tariff again became subject to revision at the demand of either of the high contracting parties. We are now in 1884, and Japan has not yet succeeded in obtaining any modification of the terms obtained from her under such exceptional circumstances. These comparisons speak for themselves. It is impossible to misinterpret their language.

BI-METALLISM.

Comparing, recently, the advantages that might accrue to Japan from borrowing abroad, instead of employing her own capital to build railways, we said that when the time came for paying her foreign creditors, she might find herself in a position to discharge her debt with money from ten to twenty per cent. less valuable than the gold originally borrowed. This hypothesis was founded on the probable remonetization of silver, and it may not be uninteresting briefly to review the arguments which seem to warrant that hypothesis.

Among all the advocates of bi-metallism no one is so earnest or untiring as M. CERNUSCHI. Numerous articles on the subject have appeared from his pen in the *Siècle*, and he is also the author of many pamphlets and other publications. Italians, for the most part, are in favour of a single standard, and in adopting the route from which he has never deviated, M. CERNUSCHI knows that he is in opposition to the opinions of the majority of his countrymen. Yet he maintains to-day, just as stoutly as ever, more stoutly than ever indeed, that bi-metallism is inevitable, and that the day is not far distant when the world must adopt a double standard, whatever may be its wishes or theories. Certainly this courageous economist has a powerful ally in history, which shows that, from time immemorial, the two noble metals have been used as money, and that their character as such has become unchangeably established. History, in short, seems to assert with assurance that gold alone is not sufficient to perform the exchanges of the World. There exists at the present day an enormous mass of silver which the nations would be embarrassed to dispose of if they desired to demonetize it, or even to relegate it to the rank of subsidiary coin. It is this difficulty that has arrested Germany half way on her route towards mono-metallism. She has fifteen hundred million silver thalers, which cannot be demonetized except at enormous loss. France's position is even more difficult. She has four thousand millions in pieces of five francs, of which a thousand millions belong to the Bank of France alone. Already, owing to the effects of mono-metallism, silver has depreciated nearly twenty per cent. It would probably depreciate to forty or fifty per cent. if France demonetized her five-franc pieces. As for the Bank of France, it would be completely ruined, since its capital and reserves barely amount to 300 millions. In America the situation is very similar. In Italy the state of affairs is less marked, as the country has only 500 millions in five-franc pieces. It is evident, therefore, that the universal adoption of a single standard is out of the question. There would result a financial disturbance which no one dare face. England, with her mono-metallic system, is of all countries

most concerned in preventing others from following her example. Such, at any rate, is M. CERNUSCHI'S opinion. He counts on England for the triumph of his theory, that is to say, for the restoration of bi-metallism as it existed before Germany began her monetary reforms. The British Empire consists essentially of two parts, Great Britain and India, of which the latter though governed by, is more populous and not less important than, the former. Now, in India the silver standard alone exists. It was established by England herself in 1835. In the British Isles, on the contrary gold alone has a legal value. In British India, from time immemorial, silver has been the money in constant use, and in 1835 it became the only legal tender. Until 1873 England experienced no inconvenience from this dual régime. Before that date Europe and the United States also employed the silver standard without restriction. Whoever possessed a bar of silver was at liberty to carry it to the Mint, and get it converted into five-franc pieces, paying only the fixed seigniorage. Thus silver was, in effect, equally valuable whether coined or in bullion. But when Germany commenced her so-called monetary reforms, the Latin Union, unwilling to absorb the silver which the former had for sale, suspended the coinage of silver five-franc pieces, permitting Italy only to coin twenty millions, which were actually put into circulation. The United States adopted the same policy. Four years ago, however, by a measure known as Bland's Bill, they authorized the annual coinage of a limited number of ingots.

The result of all this was that silver became a mere article of commerce, as compared with gold, and suffered a considerable depreciation, which must continue, since production goes on and consumption is arrested.

It is easily comprehensible that this fall in the value of silver is a constant factor of disturbance in the Indian Budget and in English commerce. The resulting embarrassments are already very great. At the monetary conference, the relative pressure of these embarrassments, and the perplexity of Englishmen themselves, were illustrated by the fact that the delegates from the mother country and those of the great colony took diametrically opposite views.

If the depreciation of silver attains much larger dimensions, there may ensue a crisis which would compel England to recoil before the prospect of enormous losses. That crisis will arrive, M. CERNUSCHI thinks, so soon as the United States repeal Bland's Bill and refuse to coin another dollar. Upon India will then devolve the duty of absorbing all the silver in the universe. Thus England's hand will be forced. In spite of herself she will be converted to bi-metallism, and Germany will go with her. As for France and the

United States, they will certainly be of the party, since their inclinations already point plainly in that direction. Silver and gold will then circulate side by side, as they did for centuries upon centuries before modern theorists thought of disturbing their functions.

M. CERNUSCHI thinks that, for the sake of simplicity, the wisest course would be to maintain the ratio of 1 to 15½, which existed between gold and silver at the commencement of the present century. Fluctuations in production may give temporary predominance to one or other of the two metals as circulating media, but from this no inconvenience need be apprehended. By rich individuals gold will always be preferred. For purposes of home trade people employ bank-notes representing whichever metal is in the strong room. Whether that metal weighs more or less is a matter of no moment. For purposes of international trade, contrary to general opinion, silver is preferable. The cost of carriage by rail, and especially by steamer, is insignificant in the case of either metal, since the charges are regulated with reference to risk of loss rather than to difficulty of handling. Silver is more bulky than gold, but it is more difficult to lose, and above all to steal, and the latter advantage fully compensates the former drawback.

M. CERNUSCHI declares his conviction that the universal adoption of a gold standard is materially impossible. Nor does he believe in the permanence of the present *régime*, which he pronounces vicious, because the five-franc piece is becoming a conventional money, worse than paper money, being more difficult of production, and having, like paper, the defect of being arbitrary. He further demonstrates that any attempt to legalize the ratio of 1 to 18, or 1 to 20, at present existing between the precious metals, would involve inextricable complications and entail immense losses.

We do not pretend to endorse or controvert these opinions, but merely to state them for the information of those among our readers who desire to grasp the salient points of a question daily assuming greater importance. From a purely scientific point of view, the doctrines of the mono-metallic school command respect, but the same may be said of free trade, which, though its logical claims are much better established than those of mono-metallism, has hitherto failed to obtain more than one disciple among all the nations of the world. The considerations urged by M. CERNUSCHI with lucidity and perseverance, and supported by M. LAVELLE with cleverly compiled statistics and subtle deductions, cannot, in our belief, fail to force bi-metallism into prominence, and to restore silver to the place which nature seems to have destined for it.

ENGLAND IN EGYPT.

Never was fate more ironical than when she imposed on such a statesman as Mr. GLADSTONE such a task as that of acting in accordance with his principles and promises in such a crisis as the Egyptian. An American comic journal sums up the situation shrewdly enough in a cartoon representing an immense white elephant, labelled "for sale or rent," before which stands a perplexed Briton in knickerbockers, with flowing whiskers, an eye-glass, a stiff collar and a large umbrella. "I never was in such a blawsted dilemma before," says JOHN. "I can't afford to stay here and take care of the beastly brute, and I've got too much money invested on him to go away and leave him, ye know." That is just how it is with Mr. GLADSTONE. Gladly would he abandon Egypt and preserve what he justly considers more valuable—English truthfulness—but there comes between him and his good intentions a crop of unforeseen circumstances not amenable to any refined treatment. It is in truth a pity that, in the last days of a splendid career, his principles should be submitted to so cruel and test, and that he should be compelled to recognize how little the practical problems of even these enlightened days are capable of solution by the rules of high morality. How grossly he is misinterpreted will be apparent from the following, which we quote from a leading Italian journal:—"What interest has the GLADSTONE Cabinet in prolonging a farce by which no one in Europe is duped? What ruins is it again preparing? What hard duty is it going to impose on the new creatures of its creation? It is not easy to see what fresh damage Mr. GLADSTONE can inflict on Egypt and on European interests there. MACHIAVELLI, in his works, says that a Frenchman covets his neighbours goods, but that, having obtained possession of them, he willingly shares his own belongings as well as those he has seized with the man he has despoiled; while the Spaniard, on the contrary, seizes all and shares nothing. MACHIAVELLI would have classed Englishmen with Spaniards had he extended his analysis. The proof is before us. France took possession of Tunis, but the French have the courage of their opinions. Once masters of the Regency, they behaved with the utmost frankness. Having benefited by the situation, they accepted the responsibilities, proclaimed a protectorate, and set themselves energetically to develop the prosperity of the conquered country. To-day there is not a Tunisian who would change the situation France has created there for the situation England has created in Egypt. Why, then, does not England proceed on the banks of the Nile as France has proceeded in Tunis? Nobody in the world believes in Mr. GLADSTONE'S sincerity. Everybody knows that England will never abandon Egypt, and that she is

absolute mistress of it, despite all the hypocrisies behind which she dissimulates her act of seizure. Let Mr. GLADSTONE, then, take off his mask. He deceives no one. And since he personally has done the harm, despite his false puritanism, despite the principles which he has professed all his life and to which he has so rarely conformed, let him take steps to repair that wrong by acting openly, frankly, and with that loyalty which ought never to be wanting in the policy of so great a nation as the English." How completely incapable such a writer seems of appreciating a man-like GLADSTONE, and how impervious his prejudices are to any glimmer of reason or logic! We have no desire to draw comparisons, believing, as we do, that England's political morality does not need the justification of foreign backslidings. But we shall be curious to see history's verdicts with respect to England's action in Egypt and France's action in Tunis. The former, we are told, seizes all and shares nothing with anybody else. Doubtless it was with that intention that she invited the other European Powers, and especially France, to act in concert with her in Egypt. If they voluntarily declined to take a share in the work when it involved some danger and trouble, it would better become them to keep silence now than to revile the selfishness of the worker. Is it forgotten, too, that France went to Tunis with the very same professions on her lips as those made by England when she interfered to save Egypt from anarchy and rebellion? There never was any avowed intention to occupy Tunis. The troops sent there were only destined to restore order and punish a handful of rebels. Once there, however, France immediately made herself mistress of the place, and all Europe rang with reproofs of her insincerity. We do not deny that what she did was the wisest and best thing she could have done, but we do say that it will require a very long record of successful results to restore the world's faith in the loyalty of her professions. England, too, disavowed any intention of occupying Egypt finally. People doubted her good faith, because they understood the vital nature of the problem she had to solve. They understood that she had interests at stake incomparably greater than France had in Tunis; so great that her abstinence with regard to Egypt had always been spoken of with contempt by old-fashioned statesmen. They even said, and do still say, that she never really intended to leave Egypt, and that her professions of such an intention were a mere blind. Yet Mr. GLADSTONE was so true to his word that when the trouble in the Soudan suddenly assumed alarming proportions, all the English troops, with the exception of three thousand, had left Egypt. If HICKS PASHA, instead of suffering, had inflicted, defeat, and if the Soudan, with all the contingencies which its unrestrained condition implies,

had passed definitively under Egyptian control, we should probably have heard less and less about English hypocrisy and vacillation. Not that anything Great Britain could have done on the banks of the Nile would have escaped hostile criticism in Europe. Men who could clamour against her for going to Egypt because they suspected that she meant to stay there, and afterwards clamour against her for not justifying their suspicions by avowing her resolve to stay there, would not have been likely, under any circumstances, to admit her sincerity or wisdom. But now that events have forced Mr. GLADSTONE'S hand, people forget altogether the resolute effort he made to be consistent, and would fain hold him responsible for all the disasters that occur outside Egypt Proper, because he has hitherto hesitated to break faith with Europe, and to expose his country to the same reproaches which were showered upon France's head when she took Tunis.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Our readers must distinctly understand that we are in no sense responsible for the sentiments or opinions of our Correspondents, for the accuracy of their assertions, or for the deductions they may choose to draw therefrom.]

ANOTHER WARNING VOICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Oh, the apathy of this generation. The warning notes we sounded have, seemingly, had no effect upon those interested. Why is it! Can it be possible that hope is dead within our bosoms? Are our hearts faint in view of the overwhelming disaster threatening us? Woe be unto us, and our house, if we fail to give due warning to our fellows. We supposed, when we gave to the public our first bugle-note of danger ahead, that Yokohama would be convulsed with the urgent importance of immediate action commensurate with the issue under consideration; that meetings would be called, and all necessary platform strategy provided; orators engaged; banners painted, bearing the legends of our fears and, declaring our determination, never, never, never to submit to outrage in this matter. We can see why it is that tariff regulations may be allowed to be amended in accordance with the wishes of the Japanese, because, although they will suffer great hardship thereby, our withers are unwrung, but in this matter of extra-territoriality is wrapt up our most vital interests; interests we should not forego if we can maintain possibly them. We know that the *Mail* has spoken favorably, nay, encouragingly of the abolishment of extra-territoriality. But let that pass. We will pardon the delusion for the time, but shall expect a recantation when sober second thoughts are allowed full sway, consequent upon the presentation of our views. Can it be possible that anyone can be deceived as to the result that may follow the abrogation of extraterritorial rights? Can it be that anyone is so obtuse as not to discover the deep and devilish insincerity of this people, and the duplicity with which they are animated? Oh! the cunning of this people is so deep it cannot be fathomed; just look about you and see the manifold evidences of the fact. Observe the vast outlay of treasure that has been made to effect the introduction of the arts and sciences into the land; witness the colleges and universities the Japanese have established; count the number of learned professors they have brought from Western lands to instruct the youth of the empire in the most advanced knowledge of the schools. Contemplate the vast machinery of their postal arrangements, and the clean work-

ing of their telegraphic system; then contemplate the iron roads they have laid, and those about to be constructed at the expense of millions of money; the Courts they have established, Custom Houses they have erected, and in fine, remember all the vast changes of governmental methods introduced with the era of the present Emperor. Do not all these things alarm the thinking observer? Can you not, as well as others, see a deep and ulterior scheme in all this to bring ruin and desolation upon foreigners who may be venturesome enough to trust themselves in the land? Can you be blind to the inference that all this has been the subtle outgrowth of a disguised determination to make practical use thereof at the needed moment, when it shall be determined that the day has arrived in which the full measure of wrath shall be launched upon the heads of the foreigners here? Besides this; can you suppose that the army, organized as it is, and so well equipped, was brought into being for any other purpose than as an instrument to effect the extirpation of our kind? Or that the navy has been created for other objects than to bombard and destroy our property, or that the local government have placed an elaborate system of sewers for other intent than to fill them with our gore in that supreme moment when extra-territoriality shall be a thing of yesterday? Can it be that you observe in the macadamised streets so lately finished by the native authorities anything but highways for the conveyance of our trunkless bodies, that they may be cast into the sea, while our heads shall decorate the lamp posts and telegraph poles in the settlement? Go to, you are blind indeed if you cannot see all this. Learn of the *Herald* and be wise. Heed it as your friend and be wise in time. We noticed the other day that General Oyama and suite left Japan for Europe. Cannot you imagine the object of his visit there? Do you not see at a glance that it is a further elaboration of the delusion and the snare by which we are being entrapped? Good gracious, it is enough to make an angel weep to look at the devilish stratagem that is played so often by the government in the elaborate style it entertains its foreign guests. To begin as late as the demonstration of friendly feeling exhibited when General Grant visited the empire, how many instances have we of the devilish cunning of these entertainers—oh, yes, they understand deluding us and putting us to sleep in a way that cannot be surpassed. The very genuineness of these appearances of heartfelt courtesy is enough to give the whole thing away to those who know all about it. But it is time to come back to our muttons. We have a duty to perform to ourselves and to the men who may come after us. We must tell the men and women of Japan that they are not competent to deal justly with foreigners; that the Government is corrupt, that officials are without honor; that Judges are venal; that virtue is an unknown quantity with the peoples of the East, and truth without an abiding place in the Land of the Rising Sun. We can do more than that, we can brand any one who thinks he can discover any good appertaining to the country a dastard and traitor to the interests of his fellows, and if he dare utter his thoughts, scout him as an ingrate and Judas among men. We should be as brutal as possible in this matter.

Yours, &c.,

ANXIOUS WARNER.

Yokohama, March 5th, 1884.

MIR. EBY'S NEW SCHEME.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—A wish has been expressed in some quarters to have Mr. Eby's University scheme thoroughly discussed from all points of view, and by others than those directly engaged in Christian work in the country. As we are interested in the question we venture to offer a few remarks in your journal.

In the first place, we have tried in vain to discover any example of the successful co-existence of two universities in one city. All experience seems to teach that however large a city may be, one, and only one, university can flourish there. There are indeed two examples of such attempts to found rival universities. The Roman Catholic University of Ireland, with plenty of money and learning at its back, has been nothing but a failure; and the same is to be said of the Roman Catholic University which was inaugurated some dozen years ago at Kensington, London. Every advantage that patronage and a cultured and learned staff could give was present; the whole undertaking wanted but one thing, and that was life. It seems to us that a University grows but is not made. To found a University without knowing exactly what class of students will come, what has been their previous education, and what is to be their subsequent career, is a very rash proceeding. We must remember that none of the large business houses in our great cities have been commenced on their present scale; all have grown like a living organism by assimilation and development. Now universities and colleges are every whit as dependent on supply and demand as are commercial undertakings. That the Higher Education is not self supporting in no way contradicts this principle. A Government which can provide careers, may found an institution which will attract students, but this only at great expense. Tokiyo is already supplied with a national university which has grown with the growth of the Capital, suiting itself to the conditions, social and political, of the country. Why then found another?

Because, it is urged, the present university is hostile to Christianity. This would be a valid argument if Christian students were debarred from its lecture halls, or Christian professors not admitted to its chairs. Now we know that such is not the case. Christian missionaries have been professors in Tokiyo University, and a Christian minister might at any time hold a chair there if he were considered the man best qualified for the post. If Mr. Eby, therefore, succeeded in founding a new university on a Christian basis, he would raise a religious antagonism that is at present non-existent. The test system is everywhere dying out, as it has been found fruitful in the nursing of incapable professors and indifferent students, and injurious to the true vitality of a university. Where, further, does Mr. Eby hope to get a supply of properly qualified entrants? The Mission Schools here, though doing a good work, are as yet not thoroughly organized for the work for which they are intended. Their students are in too many cases casuals, who drop in for three months or so, in order to get an understanding of English "as she is spoke." The work is acknowledged to be very disappointing by the teachers themselves. The Government colleges are the goal of nearly all aspiring scholars.

Again, the Government colleges are mere gateways to Government posts. No man in Japan can set up as an engineer, architect, lawyer, or doctor, unless he is a functionary of the Government. Independent careers are impossible in the present state of the country. Though we may deplore a strong anti-Christian feeling among the students of the Daigaku, as well might we deplore the spirit of any body of young men at any national university, who happened not to be Protestant Christians. As many Christian students as are capable of proving themselves fit for admission into the Daigaku can enter there, and there is nothing to prevent the tone of Tokiyo university being Christian in half a dozen years. The Daigaku in that case would only be, as it is now, a reflex of the tone of feeling in the country. That Christian students at present have to undergo a considerable amount of ridicule and wordy persecution is no new thing, and is no argument for providing them with a separate nursery with specially adapted food and the latest improvements in fire-guards. Special Colleges where Literature, Science, and Philosophy are taught

Original from

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

explicitly from a theological point of view, are miserable institutions.

This proposed university would therefore have religious tests for its professors, a barbarous relic of the past which is happily absent from the present university. It would depend for its supply of students on a number of mission schools which have no prospect of yielding such a supply. It could offer no career to its graduates; and lastly, and perhaps this is the most important objection of all, it would be under the dictation of foreigners, and the exponent of a religion which has been hated for centuries. How such an institution could form an university in the remotest way national it is hard to understand. The mere fact that 12 or 14 professors would teach there in English is a very small attraction to balance so many repulsive forces. A high class Seminary may be founded and prove useful, for such does not need to be national or even non-sectarian. We therefore rather hope to see the present Mission Schools elevated into good secondary schools, from which the present University may be fed. The difficulties in attaining even this stage are by no means few.

We remain, &c.,

FERREX AND PORREX.

Tôkiô, March 10th.

"FERREX AND PORREX."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JAPAN MAIL."

SIR,—Before "taking up my pen" to answer the letter of "Ferrex and Porrex," I would like to ask you one or two questions. You, sir, have some knowledge of Japan, and are not "directly engaged in Christian work in the country" so far as I know, and would therefore come under the category of those whose opinions are asked for. Your experience may help to thoroughness.

1. Taking this letter of "Ferrex and Porrex" as a whole, do you think it properly states "Mr. Eby's scheme" or the outline proposed by the Conferences as published in a little pamphlet? If this letter indicates the prevalent impression about our "scheme," we must try some how or other to restate the matter, so as to meet the comprehension of others, for to me the whole presentation of the letter is a "Man of Straw" in no wise related to the "Christian University" proposed.

2. Are the views of your correspondents correct, as far as they have ventured to make statements about this country and its institutions? (1) Are the Government colleges "mere gateways to Government posts"? If so, we have a new reason for some colleges that will aim at educating young men in a broader way. (2) Can no man in Japan "set up as an engineer, architect, lawyer, or doctor, unless he is a Government functionary? What are the facts? (3) Is it true that "independent careers are impossible in the present state of the country," or are not careers as open for independent men in Japan as in Scotland?

3. Is it on account of the test system which prevailed until a few years ago, or of having a rival university in the same country, that Oxford, Cambridge, and Trinity College, Dublin, have been "fruitful in nursing incapable professors and indifferent students?"

4. Can you distinguish any difference between a university giving instruction under Christian influence, where there are no tests for the students, and none but the broad one of Christianity vs. paganism for the professors, and from which all theological questions are explicitly excluded, and "Special Colleges where Literature, Science, and Philosophy are taught explicitly from a theological point of view?"

I should be glad of an answer to these questions, and thankful for any further light that you may be able to throw on a question, in the thorough discussion of which no one is more interested than

Yours truly,

C. S. EBY.

Tokio, 13th March, 1884.

YOKOHAMA CRICKET CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Yokohama Cricket Club was held yesterday afternoon at the Club Hotel, when there were present about forty members. Mr. Barlow was voted to the chair and opened the meeting by asking Mr. Kilby, the Hon. Secretary to read the minutes of the last annual meeting. This having been done, the Chairman said they were open for discussion.

No remarks being made upon them they were taken as passed.

The HON. SECRETARY then read the following report of the Committee of the Club and the Accounts:—

YOKOHAMA CRICKET CLUB. ANNUAL REPORT.

During the past Season the Club has had to contend with the disadvantage of Saturday Mail-days, which has naturally affected the Club's Matches, and the flying visits of the Men of War have also made outside matches difficult to arrange, but still a fair number of games were played.

Mr. W. B. Thomson secured the highest averages.—In Batting for 19.2 runs per innings and bowling, 1 wicket for 3.5 runs.

The special Cricket practices on Tuesday evenings were fairly successful and usually produced a good attendance. Considerable interest has been shown in Lawn Tennis and the Bye-laws for the game suggested at a meeting of those interested, on the 10th August and approved by the Committee are found to work satisfactorily.

The Subscribers to the Spring Athletic Meeting, 1883, were authorized to use the ground for practice and for their Meeting on 7th June, and the Committee here beg to acknowledge the receipt of a donation of \$16.10 from the Athletic Committee towards the funds of the Club.

In accordance with the proposition carried at the last General Meeting, colours have been ordered for the Club from England and flannel and ribbon of these colours are shortly expected. A roller has also been imported at a cost of \$65.69, which should prove a useful addition to the Club property.

The ground, though in fair order, is not in that condition that the Committee would desire to see it, and apparently requires a considerable expenditure to make the whole of the ground in playing order, but further than keeping it in general repair the Committee have not seen their way to authorize unusual expenditure, as the cost of levelling and relaying a great part of the turf would probably amount to from \$200 to \$250.

The funds of the Club show a balance in hand of \$130.00, which is \$27.81 less than the balance carried forward from last year. With 70 members now on the list the receipts for the coming season are not likely to be diminished, and as the buildings and gear are in good order the ordinary expenses are likely to be on a moderate scale.

The Committee here beg to thank the local press for so kindly inserting notices of matches, and to Messrs. Hamilton and Murray for auditing the accounts.

YOKOHAMA CRICKET CLUB IN ACCOUNT WITH E. FLINT KILBY, HONORARY TREASURER.	
CR.	
By Balance from last account (31 March, 1883)	\$157.81
By Subscriptions 1884, 3 Tokyo Residents	18.00
By Subscriptions 1883, 4 Tokyo Residents	24.00
By Subscriptions first half Season, 63 members	315.00
By Subscriptions second half Season, 62 members	310.00
By Entrance fees 11 members	55.00
By Donation from Athletic Committee	16.10
By Kobe Cricket Club 12 balls sold them	23.00
By Kobe Cricket Club 4 bats sold them	8.50
By Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Interest on Deposit \$200, 3 mos.	2.25
By Yokohama Foot Ball Association, rent of ground	45.00
	<hr/> \$974.66

Dr.	
To Advertising and post-cards	\$ 1.40
To Gear purchased	87.40
To Match expenses	26.80
To Collecting subscriptions	17.50
To Repairing Lawn mowers	15.00
To New Roller	95.69
To Fire Insurance on Pavilion \$600	12.00
To Ground Rent to 31st December, 1884	275.25
To New hat for Mr. Hearne	2.00
To Coolies rolling and weeding	Yen 89.45
To Chalk for marking Tennis Courts	55.45
To Sundries per Monihan	31.61
To Mould, etc., for ground	28.50
To Wages Monihan and Assistant	138.00
To Wages Tennis boys	25.32
To Carpenter, repairs to fence and pavilion, alterations to dressing-rooms, etc.	72.23

At average exchange 1.25 per \$1.00	Yen 410.50
Balance carried forward	335.61
	<hr/> \$974.66

1884.
March 5th.—By Balance brought forward, Cash in hand \$130.00
E. & O. E. Yokohama, 5th March, 1884.
(Signed) E. FLINT KILBY, Honorary Treasurer.
Examined with the vouchers and found correct.
(Signed) GEO. HAMILTON.
E. D. MURRAY.

Mr. COPE proposed that the report be accepted and the accounts passed.

Mr. SHAND seconded the motion, and it was carried.

The CHAIRMAN said that this being the annual meeting any member had a right to propose the improvement of any of the Bye-laws so long as it did not alter any general rule of the Club. In accordance with rule XXV. notice had been given of

several alterations and additions to the Rules intended to be brought forward at this meeting. These were printed and in the hands of the members.

Mr. F. W. PLAYFAIR proposed that Rule XIII. that the Club Ground be open for practice during the season every day, except Sundays and such other days as the Committee may appoint, should read:—That the Club Ground be open every day during the season, except on certain days for sufficient cause shown by the Committee. He also proposed that Rule XXV. as follows, be expunged:—

XXV.—That any member intending to bring forward at the Annual General Meeting any proposition altering or adding to these Rules, shall give notice to the Honorary Secretary in writing on or before 1st March, stating the nature of such alteration or addition, and that the same be circulated amongst the members.

Mr. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR proposed that the words "Sundays and" and "other" be expunged from Rule XIII.

Dr. WHEELER proposed as an amendment that the old Rule XIII. should stand. He presumed that the majority of the members were Christians, and therefore thought they would support him.

Mr. E. J. MOSS seconded the amendment.

Mr. COPE said he agreed with what Dr. Wheeler had said, they might not all be Christians, but he thought it would be a bad precedent. Moreover he wished to point out that Mr. Playfair's motion would give the Committee power to close the ground on Sundays as well as any other day.

Mr. PLAYFAIR said it was not a matter of Christianity or of sentiment, it was simply a question whether they could get a little healthful recreation on a holiday or not. He did not ask others to play, but there were members who might wish to use the ground. The members of the Rowing Club went out on a Sunday and no objection was offered. The Club was private ground, and many people play in their own grounds at Lawn Tennis on a Sunday, others go shooting, etc. "The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath."

Mr. GORDON thought that if Mr. F. W. Playfair would give way to Mr. G. W. F. Playfair, it might meet the case.

Mr. KIRBY considered it would be a pity to take a double vote.

Mr. KIRKWOOD said the Committee had put the Club in such a prosperous condition and had such a knowledge of its working that he wished to know whether they had formed any opinion on the question, as the members would no doubt be partially guided by them.

The CHAIRMAN said it was hardly a question for the Committee to discuss, each member must vote as he thought fit.

After some remarks from Mr. KINGDON and Dr. WHEELER,

The Rev. E. C. IRWINE said that sentiment, so called, had brought together a larger number of members than had even met before. The question of opening the ground on Sundays or not might be a matter of sentiment, but he considered it had a wider drift. The Cricket Club was an English institution, and it ought to be looked at from an English point of view. If the ground were opened for practice then it would be opened for matches. Sabbath was made for man some one had said, but it was made for all men, Japanese as well as foreigners, and if matches were played there would be so many more employed, not only on the ground, but by people coming down in their carriages, etc.

Mr. PLAYFAIR replied that his proposition said nothing about matches, it was simply a matter of exercise.

The CHAIRMAN put the amendment that Rule XIII. remain as it was, remarking that two years ago the Sunday question was raised and lost, but perhaps the members had changed their minds.

The amendment on being put to the meeting was lost by 23 to 16.

Mr. G. W. F. PLAYFAIR then withdrew his proposition.

Mr. F. W. PLAYFAIR withdrew his proposition as

to Rule XXV., and amended his proposition as to Rule XIII. which was put to the meeting and carried. It now reads as follows:—"That the Club ground be open every day during the Season, except on such days as the Committee may appoint."

Mr. KILBY proposed the five following alterations in the Rules:—

- 1.—That the Subscription to the Club, be \$5 half-yearly, payable on 1st January and 1st July.
- 2.—That members joining after 1st April or 1st October pay half of the current half-yearly subscription.
- 3.—That Tokio Residents be eligible for membership under Rules IX. and XI. at half the Subscription of Yokohama Members.
- 4.—The Above proposals to take the place of Rule XII.
- 5.—That 1st March be substituted for 1st June in Rule XIV.
- 6.—That Members desiring occasionally to introduce Residents, not Members of the Club, may do so by putting names and dates on a notice paper posted in the Pavilion.

The existing Rules Nos. XII. and XIV. read as follows:—

XII.—That the subscription to the Club be Ten Dollars per annum; half payable on the 1st April, the other half on the 1st August.

XIV.—That all funds of the Yokohama Cricket Club be lodged in the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, and that any Member failing to pay his subscription for the first half season before 1st June, and for the second half before 1st September in each year, shall be no longer entitled to the privileges of Membership, and shall be posted in the pavilion as a defaulter, unless he can give satisfactory reasons for the delay to the Committee.

He remarked that the rules as at present were very vague as to whether a member joining in the middle of the year should pay for the whole year. He proposed to change the date of the subscriptions as at present, this year's subscriptions went to pay next year's ground-rent, and by altering the date it would give the in-coming committee a little in hand to carry on with and each year would pay for itself. As to Tokiyo members, at present they come in under the visitors rule, the same as people from the men-of-war, and pay \$1.00 a month without any entrance fee and therefore have no vote in Club matters. By his proposition they would have a status in the Club.

Mr. ABBOTT seconded the propositions.

The CHAIRMAN said he only agreed with Mr. Kilby in the principal that it was a bad thing for the treasurer to be out of pocket at the end of the year. He thought if the date for the payment of the ground-rent was altered that it would do away with all difficulties. January, he believed, would not be a good time to collect Cricket money. Again according to Mr. Kilby's second proposition a member joining in April would pay \$2.50 for the half of the first half of the year and \$5 for the second half of the year, in all for the season \$7.50 whereas the regular members paid \$10.00. A Club that had been built up as this had should not let new members in at a cheaper rate than old ones. He proposed that (1) "The subscription to the Club be \$10 per annum, half payable on the 1st April and half on the 1st August. (2) "That members joining after 1st August to pay half of the current yearly subscription."

Seconded by Mr. MILNE and carried.

Mr. MILNE also seconded No. 3 of Mr. Kilby's propositions which was carried.

Mr. KILBY withdrew No. 4, and said that as to No. 5 the idea was to get people to come down and join in a game after which they might be induced to join the Club. There was no rule on the subject at present and it might save trouble if one were made.

Mr. SHAND seconded the proposition, but it was lost.

Mr. HAMILTON asked whether any proposition had come before the Committee as to holding an Athletic meeting. The members of the Boat-Club would like to know, being interested.

The CHAIRMAN said he did not know of any such proposition.

The Ballot was then taken for a Committee for the ensuing year which resulted in the election of Messrs. Milne, Durant, Groom, Cope, and Hearne.

The meeting then adjourned.

TRANSLATIONS FROM NATIVE JOURNALS.

WRESTLERS AND UMPIRES IN JAPAN.

(Translated from the *Choya Shimbun*.)

Wrestling matches date back as far as the sixth year of the Emperor Suinin (B.C. 24), when, for the first time on record, a match was arranged between two court nobles; one of the combatants, Taima-no-kehaya, being a man of immense stature, and the other wrestler an athlete known as Nomi-no-sukune. On one occasion, the ascension to the throne of Japan was decided by a wrestling contest. This happened in the days of the Emperor Buntoku (A.D. 858). His two sons, Kores hito and Koretaka, both claimed the right of inheriting the imperial power, but finally resolved to test their mutual claims in a wrestling combat, the winner to be the sole inheritor of the throne. The match terminated in favour of Kores hito, who succeeded his father under the style of Seiwa. In the eighth century, when Nara was the capital of Japan, the Emperor Seimu instituted wrestling matches as a part of the ceremonies observed at the Autumn Harvest Festival. Strong men came from all parts of the country to contend in these famous matches, and one Shiga Kiyobashi was crowned champion. In the meantime, rules for the ring had been drawn up, and wrestlers divided into two classes, Eastern and Western. The former chose the wisteria as their badge or emblem, while the latter took the gourd-flower (*hiyotan-no-hana*). Forty-eight legitimate grips were recognised, but no trickery or cheating was allowed. Any grips other than the recognized forty-eight were, and are still, considered foul and illegal. To decide upon, and prevent, disputes, the office of umpire was established, and the first holder of this office was the champion Kiyobashi. Shortly afterwards, civil wars broke out, which very nearly put an end to the noble game. Soon after its re-establishment under the Emperor Toba, the famous Kiyobashi died, and Yoshida Iyetsugu was called upon to assume the important position of umpire. From that date the office of umpire became an honorable one, as well as one of great responsibility. Yoshida Bungo-no-kami Iyetsugu, the successor of Kiyobashi, was a vassal of Kiso Yoshinaka, and a native of Yechizen. He was famous for his athletic prowess, was granted the rank of *Goi*, and received the title of *Oikaze*, "Running Wind." The honorary emblems of his office consisted of a fan and a wooden sword. This period—the second year of Bunji (1186)—is renowned in the annals of athletics. Matches were annually arranged in the month of July, under the direct supervision of Oikaze. His office was made hereditary, and for many generations was held by his descendants. Oikaze died on the 20th of April in the first year of Tempuku, at the ripe age of eighty-two. His second, third, fourth, and fifth successors adopted the same name; the sixth was known as Chozayemon; the seventh, Chokichiro; the eighth, Chohachiro; the ninth and tenth, Chodayu; the eleventh, Chojibei; the twelfth, Chozayemon; and the thirteenth, Chosuke. All of these famed umpires lived in Osaka. Later on, although wrestling exhibitions were still given at Nara, the game lost much of its former renown, the ring having become demoralized. Disputes were of frequent occurrence, much to the injury of wrestling. At the age of 18, Chosuke went to the then capital Kiyoto, and, with the aid of certain officials, did much towards mending matters. Some little time after his arrival, in the era Yeiroku (1558), the Emperor Ogimachi inaugurated wrestling matches at his Court, under the direction of Chosuke, who appeared in the ring under the style of Bungo-no-kami Oikaze. Still, wrestling had lost much of its pristine attractions. One day, Nijo, a privy councillor attached to the Court, invited Chosuke to his house, and presented him with a fan on which four characters were engraved: *Ichimi sei fu*. Konoye, another privy councillor, presented him with a fan and a court dress. During the era Ten-sho (1573), Nobunaga instituted military wrestling matches, which were presided over by Oikaze. Hideyoshi followed his example, and was a famous patron of the game. Iyeyasu was another enthusiastic supporter of wrestling, and by the interest he took in it did much to further its success. At this time wrestling was in the zenith of its popularity. Oikaze died on the 11th of October, in the 17th year of Keicho (1612), and was succeeded in office by his grandson Chozayemon-no-kami Oikaze, his immediate heir Toyosuke having died before him. Chozayemon, the fourteenth descendent of Yoshida, was then seventeen years old. He lived in Kiyoto, and always presided over the matches held at the Court. The Emperor presented him with a fan, in recognition of his services, and the councillor Nijo gave him a roll of brocade. In the era Genwa (1615), the Toshogu festival was celebrated by the Earl of Wakayama, when, as a matter of course, wrestling matches formed an important part of the festivities. Oikaze presided as usual, and received a sword and a hempen *Kamishimo* as a reward for his able management. He died on the 11th of May of the second year of Meireki (1656), at the age of fifty-five. As he had never married, he had no direct heir to succeed him, and so had adopted the second son of Oya Hachizayemon. But as this adopted son was still very youthful, he was placed under the guardianship of Shakushi Shigetayu. By this time wrestling had lost much of its former popularity, and matches were no longer held at the Imperial Court. Oikaze's heir accordingly entered the service of the House of Hosokawa, under the name of Zenzayemon. He still, however, held the right to preside over the ring, and reward successful wrestlers with the accustomed insignia. He died on the 3rd of February in the 13th year of Genroku (1700). The sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth descendents of Yoshida were all named Zenzayemon. In June of the 3rd year of Kwansei (1791), Tokugawa Iyemochi held a wrestling match at Fukiage Park, and gave a silver box to the umpire as a token of his favour. In the sixth year of the same period, a wrestling exhibition was given at the Hama Palace. On the 8th of October in the first year of Bunsei (1818), the nineteenth descendent of the great Yoshida Zenzayemon, departed this life, the twentieth, twenty-first, and twenty-second successors held the same name. The twenty-third descendent, the present representative of the House of Yoshida, is named Zenmon. This family is thus above six hundred and ninety years old. The presents given to his ancestors by the Emperors Toba and Ogimachi, as well as the gifts of the privy councillors Konoye and Nijo, are still preserved among the family heirlooms.

MIXED RESIDENCE.

(Translated from the *Meiji Nippo*.)

Nearly ten years ago the propriety of permitting foreigners to reside anywhere in the interior was earnestly discussed by thinking men. Ere long, however, the public ceased to interest itself in the subject, and little was subsequently heard about it. But of late the question has been again brought upon the *tapis*. Not only is it discussed by journalists and lecturers, but even in private circles it furnishes a constant topic of conversation. Doubtless the origin of this revived interest may be traced mainly to foreign correspondence and items in the foreign press. Specially worthy of note is the fact that the President of the United States said, in his annual Message on the 3rd of December last, that the United States Government is disposed to accede to the proposals of Japan; to restore to her the right of regulating her own tariff, as well as jurisdiction over foreign residents, and, in short, to

revise the treaty with her so as to bring it into accord with those of other civilized nations. (The writer then recapitulates the reference to treaty revision made in the Queen's speech; the telegram referring to the German Government's assent to Japan's proposals, and the telegram from the special correspondent of the *Daily News*). The above announcements, with, perhaps, the exception of the last, have an important bearing upon the subject of treaty revision, and although they do not specially refer to the question of mixed residence, it seems probable that they have again directed the attention of our countrymen to that problem. Whether or no they are based on facts, we cannot say. Neither are we disposed to comment on them before they are officially announced, since they refer to points of diplomacy which demand the utmost circumspection. Nevertheless the question of mixed residence is of great moment, and the interest the public feels in it will plead our justification for examining it,—always, however, without prejudice to the secrecy which ought to be observed in referring to diplomatic matters still under discussion.

As we before stated, some ten years have elapsed since this question was first discussed, and although it then elicited various criticisms and arguments, a definite and satisfactory solution was never arrived at. The advocates of mixed residence confined themselves to enumerating the benefits that would accrue from such a policy, while its opponents did not travel beyond the disadvantages that might result from it. This, indeed, is the legitimate method of considering a question on its merits. We have nothing to say against it. But it behoves us at present to enquire, in the context of the good or evil of the idea, how it has originated; what are its principal bearings; and what will be the probable consequences of promoting or opposing it.

With regard to the origin of the idea, we are disposed, looking at the matter from an outside point of view, to refer it to the announcements quoted above, though of their correctness or incorrectness we know nothing. If this surmise be admitted, it is plain that the idea is connected with treaty revision, though of the exact nature of the connection we are, again, ignorant. Judging, however, from the tenor of the announcements, our inference is that the Government has agreed to exchange the opening of the country for the satisfaction of certain claims advanced on this side. Rumours, current during the past three years, are to the effect that the claims of the Government in connection with treaty revision point to the abolition of extraterritoriality and to a modification of the tariff. Our countrymen have long and vigorously pursued their purpose with regard to these two points, and have frequently urged the Government to take decisive action. We conclude, therefore, that the project of mixed residence must have originated in a desire to accomplish a revision of the treaties, and that, should Western Powers consent to revise them in the sense we desire, the opening of the country is offered as a *quid pro quo*. The opponents of mixed residence have, accordingly, to take this circumstance into consideration, and to determine whether treaty revision can be effected without conceding the right of residence to foreigners, or whether any other satisfactory compensation can be offered for the proposed modifications. If no other compensation exists, and if treaty revision becomes, therefore, impossible, they have to decide which will be more beneficial to them—to open the country or to dispense with revision.

It has to be noticed that the existing treaties between our country and Foreign Powers were not concluded on equal terms, inasmuch as they were negotiated at a time when we were still unfamiliar with the outer world. It is clearly comprehended, both by aliens and natives, that one of the contracting parties was in a position to obtain, by stipulation, greater advantages than the other. Yet as those stipulations were entered into by mutual consent, we are bound to observe them patiently.

There is no alternative for us but to obtain a revision after mutual consultation. But that men should be unwilling to resign advantages they have once acquired, is perfectly natural. To obtain justice in the face of prejudice is a difficult feat. Therefore it is that Western States devise various pretexts with a view to postponing the revision of the treaties, although, as a point of abstract justice, they ought to restore our fiscal and judicial rights at once. Whenever the question comes to be logically discussed, right is on our side. But the world of our day is, for the most part, ruled by prejudice. Reason and right have but a limited sway, and it often happens that the demands of justice cannot be satisfied. All this has been well illustrated in the story of the efforts made by our Government to secure treaty revision. To obtain for ourselves the benefit of having our fiscal and judicial powers restored, we must adopt some means of conferring benefits on the Treaty Powers. If, without contriving such means, we were simply to assert that the desired revision of the treaties is based on principles of justice, and that whatever profit may accrue to us, we are in no way equitably bound to give an equivalent, our contention would present, indeed, a noble and commendable aspect, but from a practical point of view, it would be nothing better than an abstract opinion, nor have any more solid character than a castle in the air. The time may come, perhaps, where such an argument will command attention, but its present impotence is patent to all those who have any knowledge of the relative conditions of Japan and foreign Powers. Treaty revision, however, is a thing of the present, and must be dealt with according to the actual circumstances of the time. Since no means exist of obtaining our object without offering foreigners some *quid pro quo*, measures must be adopted to that end. What, then, shall those measure be? That is the question we have to answer. We learn that, from time to time, foreigners have complained of the difficulty of obtaining passports when they desire to visit the interior. Shall this restriction be removed, so as to allow them to travel freely without passports? Doubtless they would gladly accept the privilege, but certainly they would not be satisfied with it as a compensation for treaty revision. This will need no demonstration in the eyes of those who are at all familiar with foreign ideas. Complaints, again, are made about the small area of the treaty limits. Shall the limits be extended, so that foreigners may travel freely throughout the enlarged districts? This, too, they would regard as a boon, but it would not satisfy them as a *quid pro quo*. Some are disposed to think that the desired equivalent is only to be found in trade privileges, and that as the benefits specified above refer to freedom of personal travel alone, they will not meet the prime purpose of foreigners, namely, commercial gain. The expediency is, therefore, mooted of opening two or three more ports, and thus extending commercial opportunities. This idea deserves attention, because it is evidently suggested by familiarity with western sentiments. Beyond all question, the object for which foreigners chiefly strive is trade profit. In addition to the present ports, the opening of a few others,—say Tsuruga, Shimodzu, and Nobiru—is earnestly desired by them as a means of promoting the mutual advantages of foreign commerce. Should, then, the opening of these ports be accepted as an equivalent for the revision of the treaties, we might congratulate ourselves heartily, because whatever prosperity results from the proceeding would not belong to foreigners alone, but would evidently be shared by us. In short, while the recovery of our independent rights would be a distinct gain, the price paid for it, namely, the opening of the ports, would be a gain also. A most happy result in truth! In the interests of our country we hope that foreigners would be content with such an equivalent. And, indeed, having regard to the actual conditions under which trade is carried on with the

present number of open ports, we cannot doubt that foreigners will be disposed to ask for the opening of more. But that they would be satisfied with this concession, we do not for a moment believe.

Doubtless foreigners would desire to see additional ports opened, as likely to promote their commercial prosperity, and any request from us for a revision of the treaties would certainly be met by a request from them to that effect. But we are inclined to think that they would not be satisfied with the opening of a few ports only. For it is by no means sure that trade would be much influenced by an addition to the number of ports already open. That such a measure would confer some benefit need not be questioned. But since trade prosperity depends as much on the volume of productions as on purchasing facilities, an approximate idea of the results that would be produced by opening new ports may be formed by examining the commercial condition of those already open. Foreigners are too shrewd to have failed to draw their own deductions from the circumstances already before them. They have, without doubt, considered the question deeply. We will set down here a table, taken from the Annual Statistical Report, showing the amount of the exports and imports at the various open ports from 1874 to 1881:—

YEAR.	YOKOHAMA. YEN.	KOBE. YEN.	OSAKA. YEN.
1874	28,056,026	7,825,283	884,435
1875	35,006,437	8,117,275	830,534
1876	40,352,585	7,178,083	510,968
1877	36,658,975	8,866,247	599,611
1878	40,137,113	12,443,820	551,500
1879	42,479,585	12,518,701	804,737
1880	44,921,033	13,171,566	140,209
1881	47,720,692	12,655,050	1,723,366
Average	38,592,192	10,344,490	950,636

YEAR.	NAGASAKI. YEN.	HAKODATE. YEN.	NIIGATA. YEN.
1874	3,416,052	295,323	8,909
1875	3,534,879	433,759	20,647
1876	3,648,668	497,194	1,470
1877	3,652,598	497,975	23,909
1878	3,902,751	735,533	591,696
1879	3,708,724	606,950	46,405
1880	3,598,359	970,986	403
1881	3,383,428	971,991	891
Average	3,460,781	637,427	87,050

YEAR.	TOTALS. YEN.
1874	40,486,538
1875	47,943,558
1876	51,140,257
1877	50,399,755
1878	58,441,533
1879	60,350,509
1880	61,064,990
1881	61,460,328
Average	54,702,044

From the above table it will be seen that trade has been most prosperous in Yokohama and Kobe, and that Nagasaki comes next, while virtual stagnation is noticeable in the case of Osaka, the figure for which place only reached a million *yen* in one year, a fact which is probably attributable to the unfavourable situation of the port as well as its vicinity to Kobe. As to Hakodate, its annual average does not exceed seven hundred thousand *yen*; and Niigata's case is the most significant of all, its maximum figure during the eight years under review being less than seven hundred thousand *yen*, and its minimum 400, with correspondingly small figures in the interval. We may say, therefore, that Niigata is not worthy to be called an open port, while with regard to the whole six ports, the average annual value of their total foreign commerce is only fifty-four million *yen*. Of this total the united trades of Yokohama and Kobe constitute more than ninety per cent. In other words, if we suppose, to fix our ideas, that the total foreign commerce of Japan is represented by 100, then Yokohama and Kobe together are represented by 90, and the other four ports, by 10, while of this latter figure, again, Nagasaki alone contributes 6.4. The insignificance of the trade at ports other than Yokohama and Kobe is thus clearly demonstrated.

Such being the case with regard to the six ports already open, it is exceedingly doubtful whether any other ports, if opened, would attain the same degree of prosperity as Yokohama and Kobe. In fact we see no reason why more ports should be opened, unless the resources of the country be developed and the amount of exportable products increased.

On that hypothesis alone could the prosperity of the new ports be expected to compare with that of Yokohama or Kobe. For our own part, we cannot persuade ourselves that the time is ripe for such a measure. We believe that the opening of new ports would have no specially beneficial effect, but that their trade would remain much in the same depressed condition as that of Niigata is at present. In all probability foreigners, now that they are familiar with the actual circumstances of our

commerce, have concluded that it will never attain the dimensions they originally hoped and contemplated. A German writer, recently discussing the commerce of the Orient, said that Japan's trade is of little international importance, and that the extent of her country as well as the number of its inhabitants being far inferior to those of China, or British India, it is not to be expected that her commercial importance will ever be comparable with theirs. According to another German statement, the average annual value of Japanese exports and imports between 1868 and 1871 was 74 million gulden; between 1872 and 1875 it reached 88 millions; from 1876 to 1880, it rose to 115 millions, while the customs returns show that in 1881 it increased to 120 millions. The increase was insignificant, and in the latter years a decline, even, was perceptible. The author of these statements goes on to say:—"We have hoped that matters would mend in this respect, but the facts before us oblige us to confess that the foreign trade of the country has always been without vitality, and that up to the present it has failed to show any improvement. The cause of this is probably to be found in financial conditions. The depreciation of the paper currency as well as its severe fluctuations have, on the one hand, seriously impeded the operations, of commerce, and, on the other, tempted prominent merchants to engage in speculative operations which, in many cases, have eventuated disastrously. These things, we say, are in all probability the reason that Japan's trade with the West is inconsiderable. She has an abundance of products which are in demand in China and America, but her exports to Europe do not exceed one third of the total she sends to the two former countries, while from them also she chiefly receives her imports. The insignificance of her foreign trade is probably the cause of her imperfect relations with Western States. For many years, too, she has been purchasing foreign goods to a considerable amount, in connection with the many reforms she has made, so that her exports and imports have not been in equilibrium. The excess of the latter over the former between 1868 and 1880 reached a hundred and fifty million yen, and she has still to pay interest on foreign loans, so that, since 1872, she has exported specie to the amount of 120 million gulden. Under these circumstances the expectations formed about Japan's prospects must be pronounced fallacious. Her financial affairs have not been managed as satisfactorily as was anticipated, and her foreign commerce shows no tendency to assume dimensions of consequence."

Without commenting on the correctness or incorrectness of these assertions, it is enough for our present purpose to observe that similar opinions are expressed by most foreigners, as will be seen by perusing their journals. The views embodied in the above quotation may therefore be regarded as universally entertained by aliens. If, then, they consider the commercial prospects of our country so unpromising, while the actual condition of her trade is so dull, they will not, so long as profit is their chief object, consent to a revision of the treaties in exchange for the opening of some new ports.

Assuming this to be the case, and also that they will not be content with additional concessions as to free travel and extended treaty limits, how can we acquit ourselves to their satisfaction? Possibly it may be among their desires that we should reform our laws and improve our judiciary so that they will be able to submit to our jurisdiction without apprehension. To obtain the abolition of extraterritoriality and induce foreigners to submit to our laws so that existing abuses may be remedied, it is certainly necessary that measures be taken to amend those laws and the method of their administration, for extraterritoriality is only justifiable when people of one nationality, detecting imperfections in the laws and incompetence in the judiciary of another, consider it dangerous to entrust their lives and property to the protection of those laws, and accordingly desire to remain under the protection of their own codes, which are framed in a more enlightened spirit and secure a more disinterested administration of justice. To ask foreigners, in short, to surrender their extraterritorial privileges and come under our jurisdiction, would be equivalent to asserting that our laws as well as our judiciary have been brought to a perfectly satisfactory state, and that they are quite competent to protect life and property. The fact is, therefore, that if we desire to recover our rights of jurisdiction we must amend our laws and improve their administration. But we may conclude with certainty that foreigners will not themselves claim any such amendment by way of compensation for treaty-revision, but will simply wait till we take steps with that object. If we fail, on the other hand, to take such steps, we may expect to have claims preferred against us, not with any reference to treaty-revision, but on the ground that justice must be made accessible.

What, then, is it that foreigners most desire? A moment's reflection will show that under the present arrangements their residence is confined to the settlements, and that although they enjoy freedom of travel within a circle of a few miles radius, they are not permitted to proceed a step farther without passports. This is what they find most inconvenient. Again, whatever amount of capital they may possess, they are forbidden to invest it in houses and lands in the interior. They may not establish manufactories or open shops for purposes of trade on the same conditions as natives; neither may they lend money to Japanese on the security of fixed property; neither may they work mines. In a word, they are debarred from all opportunities of making profits in speculations which the Japanese have not essayed. They are cooped up within the narrow limits of settlements where no chance of employing their capital and enterprise exists. Such circumstances might not be painful to persons who cared little for gain; but they are intolerable to men so enthusiastic as foreigners in the pursuit of profit. Their great aim, therefore, is to procure increased commercial and industrial facilities, and this can only be compassed by obtaining the right of mixed residence in the interior. Mixed residence may, therefore, be called the goal of their desires: if that privilege were granted they would probably be content, and would consent to the revision of the treaties.

For this reason we say that the privilege of mixed residence in the interior has a distinct relation to treaty revision. If it be thought that the privilege cannot easily be granted, then it follows that treaty revision cannot easily be effected. Among ourselves we may say that we wish to obtain the revision without conferring the privilege, but in foreign ears such a statement would have no meaning. And our *vis-à-vis* in this matter is a foreigner, not a Japanese. To discuss the question from a standpoint that does not appeal to foreigners is mere waste of time. Therefore when people set out to comment on mixed residence, they had better begin by observing the relation it bears to treaty revision, and by examining whether revision can be effected without granting residence, or whether any other means of satisfying foreigners exists. If it is impossible to get the treaties modified without conferring the privilege of mixed residence, must revision be postponed, or must it be procured by conceding the privilege? It behoves us to reflect well what benefits will accrue from the revision and what evils, if any, may result from the privilege. It is to be regretted that those who discuss the question of mixed residence appear not to look beyond the advantages or disadvantages that may be connected with it, and neglect to consider it with reference to its very important bearing upon treaty revision. It is for this reason that we have drawn attention to this aspect of the question, hoping that what we have said may serve to promote a truer appreciation of the problem.

THE PRESENT STATE OF MEDICINE IN JAPAN.

The following interesting article in the form of a letter, written by a well-known physician residing in Yokohama, appears in a recent number of the *American Medical News*. It is to be understood that the article was written for the readers of a foreign Professional journal:—

SIR,—As the word Japan seems to open visions of El Dorado to all non-resident aspirants to fortune, and lest the heading of my letter should incite some of my brethren to its perusal in hope that it may prove in some sort a directory to the, presumably, overflowing wealth of the Orient, let me begin by word as to the status and prospects of European and American physicians in this portion of the Far East. As to present status, those medical men now here, save of the small and rapidly decreasing number in government employment, are doing, and must do, more work for less remuneration than in even our small cities at home, while the expense of living in decent comfort is far greater in Japan than in the United States.

This country is now passing through a severe financial crisis; business of every kind is at a standstill, and as the foreign practitioner must depend almost exclusively upon the foreign residents for his support, the depression of trade affects him severely. It is but rarely that the services of a foreign doctor are called for by the natives, first, because the majority of these much prefer their own physicians; second, because they are rarely able to pay for his services—in fact, cannot understand that a physician's time or advice has any money value, the old custom—still almost univer-

sally in force—being to pay the medical attendant for medicines furnished, for which alone the physician has a legal claim to remuneration, and to pay, or not to pay, in addition, an honorarium generally ridiculously small, and entirely a voluntary matter; third, because in the large cities of the Empire there are foreign medical officers attached to the Government hospitals, whose advice can be had by the richest at an expenditure amounting to little more than the wholesale cost of the medicines prescribed. The number of foreign doctors thus employed is now small and diminishing, their places, at the expiration of their contracts, being filled by natives educated abroad, or at the Imperial Medical School mentioned hereafter. Our services—I speak as one of the resident foreign physicians—are even less in demand by the natives than formerly, for Japan has, perhaps, made more real and solid progress in medical science than in any other branch of western learning, and has now a considerable number of fairly good men—either educated in foreign countries, where some have won honors, or under foreign instructors in the Government hospitals and medical schools at home. In addition to these better men, who, of course, are found only in the Imperial service or in the larger cities, there is to be found in almost every town of the Empire at least one native physician practising, so far as his education will permit, according to the modern system.

The Government offers every encouragement for the advancement of the native practitioners in modern science. The innumerable appointments in its gift are bestowed only on men of the new school, while, as regards those practising privately, a system of examination and graduated license has been put in force throughout the Empire, which would afford no bad model for adoption in some of the United States.

Japan has now a considerable literature of modern medicine, which is rapidly increasing, and there are also something like a dozen medical periodicals, well supported. It is true that the execution of the translations, which compose the bulk of the literature in question, leaves much to be desired, yet the essentials of the original are generally preserved, and gross errors infrequent.

Ten years ago, the number of books on modern medicine in the Japanese language could have been counted on the fingers of one hand, while the writer at that time established, under Government auspices, the first medical journal of the country. A few months ago, a shipment of some four hundred volumes of medical text-books was sent to the library of the Surgeon-General, U.S.A., at Washington, and nearly as many more will shortly follow. Many of these are really beautiful reproductions of expensive illustrated works from the presses of Europe or America, though original treatises of almost equal mechanical execution are not wanting. It follows that, should any of your readers wish to investigate for himself the state of medical literature in Japan, he will find material within reach, the library mentioned containing, in addition to the above-mentioned books, full sets of the leading medical journals of this country.

The exquisite workmen of Japan have, of course, undertaken the manufacture of surgical instruments and apparatus—almost all known surgical appliances, of native manufacture, being found in the shops of the dealers in medical supplies. In appearance and finish, the instruments of domestic manufacture are indistinguishable from those imported, and, with the important exception of those whose value depends upon the quality and temper of the steel employed, are equally useful. It is difficult to understand the failure of the native artisan in the construction of small articles of steel, for the Japanese metal is second to none in the world, as will be readily granted by anyone who has seen the tests endured by a Japanese sword of good quality. When this difficulty in the management of small articles of steel shall have been overcome, as no doubt it speedily will be, the Japanese surgeon will be able to furnish himself more cheaply than in any other country.

It will be seen, then, that so far as material goes, the means are not wanting for the theoretical education or the equipment of every native student, while the many and often admirable hospitals maintained by the Imperial Government, or by subscription, afford good opportunities for clinical study.

Facilities for anatomical work are, however, sadly lacking. Though Japan has an anatomy law, which many of our benighted States would do well to copy, its operation is so hampered by the prejudice and mistaken benevolence of the people, that even in the great city of Tokio (Yedo) the Imperial School of Medicine is unable fully to supply its students with anatomical material, while in the provincial hospitals and schools opportunities for dissection are rare indeed. Realizing the value of anatomical study, and the difficulties in the way of its pursuit,

efforts have been made to compensate for the want of actual dissection by the publication of elaborate atlases and anatomical wall-plates, and even by the reproduction in fac-simile of Auzoux's great manikins at a price of about one-third the original. The lack of facilities for the study of practical anatomy is the more, perhaps, to be regretted from the fact that the Japanese excel in many of the qualities which go to make a successful operative surgeon. Steady nerve, marvellous dexterity, mechanical tact, and a power of mentally reconstructing form that is absolutely astonishing, are qualifications to which, if a knowledge of anatomy were added, the product should be a surgeon above the average.

Apocryphal of this power of recalling form, which is almost universal among the better class of Japanese, I am inclined to attribute it to the personal and hereditary influence of training in the use of the Chinese character, a knowledge of several thousands of which complicated and arbitrary forms is necessary to every Japanese who would either read or write anything esteemed of value. The æsthetic sense of the race may also have influence in this direction.

I have spoken of the Imperial School of Medicine at Tokio (Yedo), and of the larger hospitals throughout the country, as affording opportunities for instruction under foreign teachers. The former is under management exclusively German, and, in fact, of late years, German physicians have had almost entire control of the medical education of the country.

That Germans now have the preference in Japan, as teachers, in almost all branches of science and literature, is probably due to the fact that the more conservative members of the Government feel that the country has progressed rather too rapidly toward free thought and free institutions, and believe the political system of Germany to be more in accord with that desirable for Japan, than those of England and America. The students themselves, however, much prefer the English language and English and American books, even as regards medicine, and it is chiefly from these sources that the present literature is derived.

The old school of medicine in Japan was nearly identical with that of China, a mélange of superstition and an absurd and utterly artificial system of anatomy and physiology, with the results of ages of empirical practice—the latter having led to a more or less correct appreciation of the use and value of many medicines used by ourselves, e.g., mercury, antimony, and aconite. In addition to a vast number of plants and minerals, animal substances form an important element of the old pharmacopœia. Whole cargoes of dried foetal deer are yearly shipped from the island Yezo to southern Japan and China; while dried lizards, tigers' claws and teeth, bears' galls, monkeys' skulls, and other even more repulsive substances, are largely used. In fact, the Chinese practitioner of to-day is working with much the same armament as did our predecessors in the not very long past time when treacle of mummy was a panacea. But absurd and disgusting as the materia medica of the old school of medicine in Japan and China may at first glance appear, it is probable that in their immense, and to us little-known, field of natural resources, the empiricism of a shrewd people has discovered some therapeutic agents of value, and such as would repay a thorough investigation of their pharmacopœia by some medical Sinalogue. I will return to this subject further on.

Although trained in the same school and holding allegiance to the same ancient authorities, the essential difference between the stolid conservatism of the Chinese and the active and progressive disposition of their insular neighbors, was shown even before the opening of Japan to foreigners generally, by the attainment of a partial emancipation from the thralldom of the old school through the voluntary efforts of native practitioners, and this, too, at a time when even to read a foreign book without the special permission of the Government was a capital offence. A native doctor, having accidentally seen a volume of anatomical plates at the Dutch settlement of Nagasaki, returned to his distant home disquieted and anxious, realizing that if the drawings he had examined were correct, his whole system of science, based as it was on different premises, must fall to the ground. Unable to prosecute research upon the human cadaver, he carefully dissected all the quadrupeds he could obtain, and finding, throughout, close similarity to each other, and to the pictures he had seen, he at last, after great labor and no little danger, obtained permission to dissect a criminal. This dissection settled the question for himself and friends, for the science of the western foreigner was vindicated. From this began a movement, resulting in permission being given that a limited number of natives might study under the Dutch surgeons at Nagasaki, and in the translation of a few medical treatises of an elementary character.

Another instance of progress is even more remarkable, as it was entirely independent of assistance from without. A native physician, belonging to a family with whom the practice of the obstetric art was hereditary, for male accoucheurs have long existed in Japan, though in small number, after many misfortunes in the line of his practice, and a long time devoted to study and investigation, elaborated a fairly complete system of midwifery, and published an illustrated treatise on the subject. Kagawa Shigen found the obstetric art of Japan in a condition little, if any, better than among the American Indians of to-day; he left it almost upon a par with that of Europe before the invention of the forceps. He invented a number of convenient and practical instruments, which, though in some respects resembling others of European origin, differ sufficiently from these to prove independent evolution, while his book, which affords intrinsic evidence of originality, contains a series of really valuable precepts and clinical observations. Unfortunately, like the Chamberlens, Kagawa attempted to keep his improvements secret within the limits of his own family, and, unlike the Chamberlens, succeeded, until recently, in so doing. A descendant of the reformer is to-day practising in the capital, and exhibits so little of the ancestral spirit as to ignore all science save as contained between the covers of his inherited manual.

The aged Solomon's grumbling remarks, that there is nothing new under the sun, seems to derive much confirmation from the Orient, and it need hardly surprise one greatly to learn that any of our supposed recent discoveries were anticipated ages ago in the Far East. Am I wrong in believing that the extract of malt is esteemed by many as one of the most recent triumphs of restorative medicine? The Japanese and, to some extent, their Celestial neighbors have used this article, or something closely related thereto, for centuries. The experience of my foreign colleagues and myself in the medicinal use of the native preparation has been so favorable that I cannot refrain from a few remarks upon it, even though quite aware that this long and gossiping letter should ere this have been brought to a close.

The article in question is known in Japan as "ame" or, in its better form, as "midzu ame," and as it is the latter which is most convenient and valuable for medicinal use, it is of this variety that I shall chiefly speak. Midzu ame, of the best quality, is a clear, transparent, faintly brown, or amber-colored syrup, or may have the consistence of candy, according to the amount of water contained. If properly prepared, it ferments only with difficulty, and long keeping changes it only by inspissation. The flavor is pleasant; so much so that some of our foreign residents prefer it, for table use, to the best imported syrups, while, when used medicinally, it rarely becomes distasteful, even after prolonged administration.

To describe in detail the manufacture of midzu ame would occupy too much space at present. Suffice it to say that it depends upon the now generally known fact that starch, in the presence of malt in solution, is converted into a saccharine body (maltose). The malt used is, as elsewhere, derived from barley, germination having been allowed to proceed to a greater extent than is usual with us; the starch is that of rice or millet, preferably the former, of which a peculiarly glutinous variety is chosen.

The consumption of ame in its different forms is enormous in Japan. The cheapness of the article, as compared with sugar, renders it the basis of a large proportion of the confectionery used. I have spoken of its use by the natives medicinally; it is, however, only as a digestible and strengthening food for the aged and for hand-fed or weakly infants, that it has, until very recently, been prescribed, and from this point of view alone midzu ame will be found well worthy of trial elsewhere. So far as children are concerned, I know nothing more useful for the feeble or bottle-fed than the article in question. During the past five years, the writer having been first to call attention to the subject, midzu ame has been largely used by both foreign and native practitioners in cases of dyspepsia and malassimilation, of almost every variety, with such success that the consumption of the better qualities has considerably increased, while several manufacturers are now devoting themselves to the production of special grades for exclusively medical use.

Midzu ame ranks as a food close to cod-liver oil, for which it will often be found to be an efficient substitute. In many cases of phthisis it has proved so useful that I shall not be surprised should the lapse of time show that ame is quite as valuable in this disease as is the oil. It is, however, of its use in dyspepsia that I would specially speak. An experience of several hundreds of cases, both native and European, and in conditions varying from mere sluggishness of digestion to

almost total and fatal inanition, has demonstrated that ame is far more than an easily assimilated food. This it certainly is; but it has, in my opinion, a power to assist in the conversion of other food beyond that of any agent heretofore employed, and is to be relied upon to exert the action which we hope for from pepsin, artificial gastric juice and the like, but in which we are so often disappointed. It is probably this power which, in cases characterized by active fermentation, acetic or butyric, enables the ame, saccharine body though it be, to act as an anti-ferment, for it is in this class of cases that the benefit derived from its use is most speedily manifested.

Granting the foregoing statements to be correct, it will be seen that we have in the article under consideration a nourishing, agreeable, and easily digested food, which can often be taken, and duly appropriated, after cream, raw beef, acid emulsions, and the like, have failed, and which will frequently secure the digestion of more or less other food, almost from first administration. I would not be understood as asserting that this contribution from the Far East is either infallible or specific, but that it has often saved life and, in an immense number of cases, restored health, even after the failure of approved treatment, I am certain, as well as that the experience of most of my colleagues has been equally favorable.

It is to be hoped that an opportunity may soon be given for a thorough and unprejudiced trial of ame in the United States, and that, in order that such may be secured to it, whoever undertakes its introduction will put it in the hands of the profession only, in proper manner, and without the clap-trap and advertising falsehood which repel every honest physician from what may, perhaps, be a really valuable and much needed article.

STUART ELDRIDGE, M.D.,
Medical Director of Imperial Hospital of Kanagawa Ken,
Surgeon in Charge of the Foreign General Hospital of Yokohama.
Yokohama, Japan, December 20, 1883.

IN THE MINISTERIAL COURT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN JAPAN.

Before the Honorable JOHN A. BINGHAM, Envoy
Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.
March 13th, 1884.

THOMAS B. VAN BUREN V. THOMAS H. TRIFLER.
SLANDER.—\$5,000 DAMAGES.

General Van Buren conducted his own case.
Mr. Weiller appeared for the defendant.
Mr. Weiller moved that Mr. Litchfield, Barrister-at-Law in H.B.M. Court, be allowed to assist him in the case.

Plaintiff said that with all due deference to the Court, he thought that he should have been notified before of this proceeding. Although he entertained the greatest regard for his learned friend Mr. Litchfield, he objected on the ground that recently an American lawyer had not been permitted to practise in the English Court in Yokohama, and if such a display of legal talent was to be brought against him, he should have been notified.

The Court after hearing the parties, ruled that inasmuch as Mr. Litchfield had been recognised as a practitioner before the U.S. Consular Court at Kanagawa, he would be allowed to appear to assist in the defence, but if any prejudice to the plaintiff's rights could be shown in consequence thereof, the question would receive further consideration.

Mr. Weiller then called attention to his motion that the plaintiff should deposit security for costs under Rule 253 of the Court Regulations.

The plaintiff said that defendant had not filed an affidavit to that effect, and it appeared that the defendant had declared in his answer that the plaintiff was in possession of sufficient property within the jurisdiction of the Court.

The Court overruled the motion as he thought it did not apply in the present case.

The Court being informed that the parties were now ready to proceed said the statute enjoined him to try and settle all cases of the present nature outside of the Court and to cooperate in bringing about an amicable settlement either by bringing the parties together or by referring the matter to another party. He hoped that they might arrive at a settlement without further legal proceedings. If they thought proper they might retire to the adjoining room for that purpose.

Plaintiff said he had most unwillingly brought the case and had written a letter to that effect to the defendant which he was ready to produce in evidence.

Mr. Weiller said he had no objection to the parties arranging it between themselves.

The plaintiff said he had charged the defendant with using scandalous language, etc., and if he would withdraw the expressions and say they were false he would not press the suit. He was not actuated by any vindictive feelings.

The Court said that, if it was the wish of the defendant, they could retire to settle the matter.

Defendant said he had no retraction to make whatever.

Plaintiff called attention to errors in the answer to the petition, such as misnomer of the plaintiff as Thos. H. van Buren instead of Thos. B. van Buren (the plaintiff's copy of the answer was erroneous), and frequent abbreviations such as Deft. Pltf. and Hon. U.S. which were totally inadmissible in a legal paper. Also the signature Thomas H. Tripler M.D. There was no such person named in the pleadings, if it was intended as a title he could suggest a more appropriate one. It was entirely out of order and improper in a legal paper.

The Court said the question was of no importance and the M.D. might be struck off.

Defendant said he had authority for using the title, and it was his usual way of signing his name.

Plaintiff then read the petition and answer as follows:—

IN THE MINISTERIAL COURT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN JAPAN.

THOMAS B. VAN BUREN, plaintiff, against THOMAS H. TRIPLER, defendant.

The petition of the plaintiff in the above entitled cause respectfully shows to the court that he is, and for some years last past has been, Consul-General of the United States of America at Kanagawa, in the Empire of Japan, and, during that time he has resided and still resides at Yokohama, in Kanagawa-Ken, in said Empire, where he has his offices and performs his official duties; that, by virtue of his said office as Consul-General, he is and has been, while so holding said office, Judge of the Consular Court attached thereto.

That the defendant is an American citizen, residing in Yokohama aforesaid; and within the jurisdiction of this Court.

That said defendant wickedly intending to injure the plaintiff, heretofore, to wit: on the thirty-first day of December, last past, and also on several days immediately preceding that date, at the then "Yokohama United Club," at number five B, in the foreign settlement of Yokohama aforesaid, in a certain discourse, which he then had of and concerning the plaintiff, did, in the presence and hearing of divers persons, maliciously and falsely speak and publish of and concerning the plaintiff the following false, scandalous, and defamatory words, that is to say:—"He" (the plaintiff meaning) "went to the Kencho and in an underhand manner got them (the Japanese authorities meaning) to sell him (the plaintiff meaning) "the Consular buildings" (meaning that the plaintiff, in an unfair and improper manner, that is by unfair and improper statements, or representations, induced the Japanese authorities to sell to him—the said plaintiff—the building occupied as offices of the United States Consulate-General, and for the use of the court and jail attached thereto), "for twenty-two hundred yen." "He" (the plaintiff meaning) "had no right to, buy 'them' (meaning the consular buildings aforesaid) at all. It is contrary to law" (meaning that the plaintiff in making such alleged purchase, had violated law). "He has swindled the government" (meaning that the plaintiff, in making such alleged purchase, had defrauded the Government of the United States, of which plaintiff was and is an official, and that the plaintiff had been thereby guilty of a criminal offence.) "The Department of State has been informed of it, but has taken no notice; but old Frelinghuysen will not be there forever, and, when he goes, we will get him out" (meaning that an accusation has been prepared by defendant or some other person accusing the plaintiff of the alleged act on his part heretofore referred to and forwarded to the department of state of the United States of America at Washington, of which said department had taken no notice whatever; but that the Honourable F. T. Frelinghuysen, Secretary of State of the United States, would, before long, cease to continue in that office, and some other person would become Secretary of State, and that then the plaintiff should be deprived of his official position through the efforts of the defendant and others assisting him).

By means of the committing of which grievances of the said defendant, the plaintiff has been brought into public scandal and disgrace and greatly injured in his good name and otherwise injured.

Wherefore plaintiff prays that the defendant may be adjudged to pay to the plaintiff the sum of five thousand dollars, as damages, and costs of suit, as some compensation for said injuries, and that such other remedy be granted to the plaintiff for the great wrong done him by the defendant as to the Court may seem right and proper.

(Signed) THOS. B. VAN BUREN.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 15th day of January, 1884.

(Signed) JOHN A. BINGHAM,
U. S. Minister.

In the Ministerial Court of the United States of America in Japan.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original petition filed in this Court.

(Signed) JOHN A. BINGHAM,
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister
Plenipotentiary of the United
States of America.

Attest. (Signed) GUSTAVE GOWARD,
Secretary of Legation.

IN THE MINISTERIAL COURT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN JAPAN.

Before the Hon. JNO. A. BINGHAM, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the U. S. of America, in Japan, Acting Judicially.

THOMAS B. VAN BUREN, plaintiff, against THOMAS H. TRIPLER, defendant.

The answer of Thomas H. Tripler, the above-named defendant, to the petition of the above-named plaintiff shows as follows:—

That the said defendant admits so much of the said petition as alleges that the plaintiff is Consul General of the United States at Kanagawa, Japan, and that he is resident in Yokohama.

That the said defendant denies that he spoke and published of and concerning the said plaintiff, the alleged defamatory words in the petition set forth or any of them, and says that he is innocent of the grievances alleged in the said petition.

The said defendant further says that some time during last year he wrote and sent a letter to the Hon. Secretary of State of the United States, at Washington, D. C., U. S. of America, and concerning the purchase by the said plaintiff, as Consul-General of the United States at Kanagawa aforesaid, of the premises and buildings occupied by the Consul-General of the United States there, as he, the said defendant lawfully might do, believing, as the said defendant then believed, that it was in the truth and in fact the case, that the said plaintiff had purchased the premises and buildings aforesaid as Consul-General, and that it was to the interest and benefit of the people of the U. S. that the said fact should be known.

And the defendant further says, that he admits that he, on or about the time of the alleged grievance set forth in the petition of the plaintiff, in the said letter to the Hon. Secretary of state aforesaid, did criticise the acts of the plaintiff as such Consul-General aforesaid, and that he, the said defendant, as a citizen of the United States, resident said Japan, may and might justly and properly criticise the acts of said plaintiff as an official of the United States, believing as the said defendant then and still believes, that it was true, that the said acts, namely, the purchase of the before-mentioned Consular premises and buildings by the said plaintiff as Consul-General aforesaid, were committed by him the said plaintiff, and that the same were improper, and that it was for the interest and benefit of the people of the United States that the same should be made known.

Therefore the defendant prays that the petition of the plaintiff be dismissed, that the said plaintiff be adjudged to pay all the costs of this action, and that the defendant receive such other relief, as from the nature of the case and in the discretion of the Court may seem right and proper.

Plaintiff said before proceeding with his evidence he wished to make an amendment in his petition by inserting the words "as Consul-General aforesaid" in paragraphs two and three, after the word plaintiff.

Mr. Weiller distinctly opposed the alteration, as the plaintiff had had the answer for some days and any alteration should have been applied for in writing.

The plaintiff said that if it took the defendant by surprise he would agree to an adjournment.

Mr. Weiller replied that they did not wish to adjourn.

The Court asked the plaintiff under what rule he applied for an amendment to the petition without previous notice.

Plaintiff said under the general rule of procedure, but he left it to the discretion of the Court.

The Court observed that the proposed alteration would materially limit the operation of the petition.

Mr. Weiller said his objection was based on purely technical grounds, not that it would make any material difference.

Plaintiff then withdrew his motion for leave to amend.

Plaintiff then said the whole issue appeared to be whether the words were spoken or not, the rest was mere impudence. The fact of the defendant writing to the Secretary of State had nothing to do with the issue.

Mr. Weiller requested that the witnesses for the prosecution be asked to withdraw.

Plaintiff said the witnesses were gentlemen well known to the community. It was rather an implication and he did not see the propriety of asking honourable gentlemen to leave the room.

Mr. Weiller replied that he had no desire to imply anything against any of the witnesses, but everyone knew how the influence that the testimony of one witness had with another.

His Honour said it was a matter within the discretion of the Court, and granted the application.

Gilman H. Prichard stated that he was a clerk in the employ of Messrs. Smith Baker & Co., of Yokohama. He had known the defendant for about five years. On the 30th or 31st, he thought on the 31st, of December last he was in the company of the defendant in the hall of the Yokohama United Club, No. 58, Yokohama. He heard the defendant say that the General, or old General, had purchased the United States Consular buildings in an underhanded way for yen 2,200. That it was unlawful: that the Department of State had been notified and had taken no notice, that old Frelinghuysen would not always be there and then they would get him (the General) out. The General had been to the Kencho and bought them in an underhand manner. He had swindled the Government (meaning the U. S. Government).

General van Buren, Dr. Fisher, R.N., and Mr. Litchfield had been mentioned as candidates for the Presidency of the Yokohama United Club. The ballot box was on one side of the hall and the conversation took place on the other side. He told Dr. Tripler that he thought he was making a mistake in talking about the General in this manner. He was doing himself no good. People knew there had been a disagreement between them, but were surprised at his conduct, as at a previous election he had worked for the General.

To Mr. Weiller—The conversation took place between 5 and 7 o'clock in the evening and lasted for about half an hour. Mr. J. Douglas was present and defendant asked him had he voted. Numerous other members passed through including Mr. Beato, Mr. Walker, and Mr. C. de B. Stewart. He thought Mr. Beato heard a portion of the conversation, also Mr. C. de B. Stewart. Mr. Douglas was there all the time. The conversation arose through my remonstrating with the defendant for working against General van Buren. Witness commenced the conversation, and during it the words complained of were spoken. Mr. Douglas and witness were talking together and some one was voting. Dr. Tripler was in the bar, and rushed up and asked him not to vote for General van Buren. He then took up the list and seeing we had voted said he hoped we had not voted for the General. Mr. Douglas said he had voted for Mr. Litchfield as he was an old friend, otherwise he should have voted for the General. Witness said he had voted for the General. Defendant then spoke about the purchase of the Consulate. It was difficult to remember the exact words used in a conversation, but to the best of his recollection he said he (the plaintiff) had swindled the Government. He could repeat much more of the conversation which he had not communicated to the General. There was no more excitement about this election than usual. Plaintiff was not the only man that was abused, there was more or less talk. The ballot-box stood on the table on the right hand side of the hall facing the Bund, the conversation took place under the bulletin board on the left hand side. Mr. Beato was present during part of the conversation. Mr. Walker also heard part. On the Sunday following he (witness) was at the plaintiff's house and communicated the conversation. He did not go there with the special intention of doing so. Plaintiff said he had heard about the conversation, and about his remonstrating with the defendant so he (witness) then repeated the conversation.

Plaintiff here asked witness to repeat the conversation he referred to as not having been communicated to him.

Mr. Weiller objected as it should have been brought out in the direct examination.

After some discussion plaintiff asked the witness whether any other words were used during the conversation.

Mr. Weiller objected again as the plaintiff had no right to try back on the direct examination.

The Court asked plaintiff what point in the conversation he referred to.

Plaintiff said he did not know what the conversation had been about, but the door being once opened by the defendant he desired the whole conversation to be given.

The Court sustained Mr. Weiller's objection.

In reply to the question what led the witness to understand the United States Government was referred to, Witness replied that the defendant's reference to plaintiff's being an American citizen and to Mr. Frelinghuysen as Secretary of State, and his reference to what plaintiff's position would be if he were at home. He said plaintiff would have been imprisoned for it.

Felix Beato stated he had been in Yokohama for 21 years, and had known the defendant for 11 or 12 years. In the latter part of December he met him in the hall of the old Club, to the best of his recollection about 5 or 6 o'clock in the evening. He heard the defendant say that he had discovered how to smash the General to pieces. That he had bought the U. S. Consulate from the Kencho for nothing, and was swindling his Government. He had got it in an underhand way and was getting too much rent, and that he (defendant) was going to write to America about it. Witness had heard the same conversation about a month before. Defendant mentioned the price paid for the buildings but he had forgotten the amount.

To Mr. Weiller—It was in the afternoon that the conversation took place between 5 and 7 o'clock in the hall of the Club near the voting place. He was trying to get votes for the General. Defendant was talking to several people, some from Hong-kong, and several others. Mr. Prichard was present. Defendant was standing near the table under the bulletin board. He did not remember what started the conversation, but believed it arose from the defendant trying to stop people from voting for General van Buren. He did not recollect how

much Dr. Tripler said was paid for the buildings, he thought it was 2,000 yen or 2,200 yen, it might have been 1,700 yen. Witness explained that when he said for nothing he meant a nominal sum, he understood it as an English expression for anything that was bought for much under its value. He understood English much better than he could speak it. Defendant used the expression, "I will smash the General." There was some excitement during the election as there always is. He wished to get the General elected, others opposed him. He did not remember any of the other candidates being spoken ill of. Defendant did not abuse anyone else.

Frank Walker stated that he was a book-keeper and shipping clerk in the employ of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire. He had known defendant for 9 or 10 years. He was a member of the Yokohama United Club. He met the defendant at the end of last year in the Yokohama United Club; the election of President was pending. He did not hear defendant speak of plaintiff in the hall, but heard him make some remarks in the Bar-room which opened into the hall. Defendant began and said he had had trouble with the plaintiff about something and that he was going to make it warm for him. He mentioned that he had written to the Secretary of State. That the General had bought the Consulate, and that he thought it was not generally known and that he was charging too much rent for it. Mr. Beato was there at the time and defendant continued the conversation with him. He did not hear any more at that time. At other times he had heard a general running down of the plaintiff's character.

To Mr. Weiller—He could not swear to the date, it was in the evening after dinner about 9 or half-past. He did not remember being in the Club between 5 and 7 o'clock. He could not say whether he had seen Dr. Tripler before on that day, but might have seen him frequently. He voted for the President; the defendant was present and asked him not to vote for the plaintiff, saying he had bought the Consulate buildings and was charging too much rent and that he defendant had written to the Secretary of State about it. The conversation took place in the Bar after dinner. Mr. Beato and Mr. J. Douglas were present. He had received a summons from H.B.M. Court to attend this case. He had heard before this that a case was coming on between General van Buren and Dr. Tripler. The first time he heard about it was 10 or 14 days ago, and he had not communicated the conversation to the plaintiff.

The plaintiff said that closed his case. Unfortunately one of his principal witnesses, Mr. J. Douglas had left the country and he was unaware of his intention to do so until the evening before his departure. Mr. C. de B. Stewart, another of his witnesses had expressed such a desire not to be called that he had been excused.

Mr. Weiller, for defendant, moved for a non-suit on the ground that no action had been made out, pending which, the Court remarked that Mr. P. Osborne who had been called as a witness was obliged to leave and that he might be examined without prejudice to future objections.

Percival Osborne stated that he was employed in the Kanagawa Kencho. He had to do with the ground rents and transfer of land. Knew the position of the U.S. Consulate.

Upon being asked by Mr. Weiller who was the present owner of the U.S. Consulate buildings, the plaintiff objected to the question.

Plaintiff said that this defence could not affect the issue; he did not wish to deny any of his actions but the question of the ownership could not be gone into. If defendant desired to introduce evidence of this kind, he should have pleaded justification.

Mr. Weiller held that they had pleaded justification, and referred to a letter to the Secretary of State mentioned in the petition. They denied that the words were slanderous. The charge brought was that defendant had said the property had been bought by plaintiff and they had a right to prove it had been and also that he was charging too much rent for it.

Plaintiff said that in the answer the defendant had denied using the language complained of and therefore had no right to plead justification. If he had asserted that he had done so, and that it was true, he might then have pleaded justification.

His Honour said he was clearly of opinion that under the statute the Court was authorized to follow the Common Law and under the Common Law in an action of slander it was permissible to deny the accusation and afterwards plead justification. Justification must be pleaded. It appeared to him that the words of the answer excluded the conclusion that they justified the accusation.

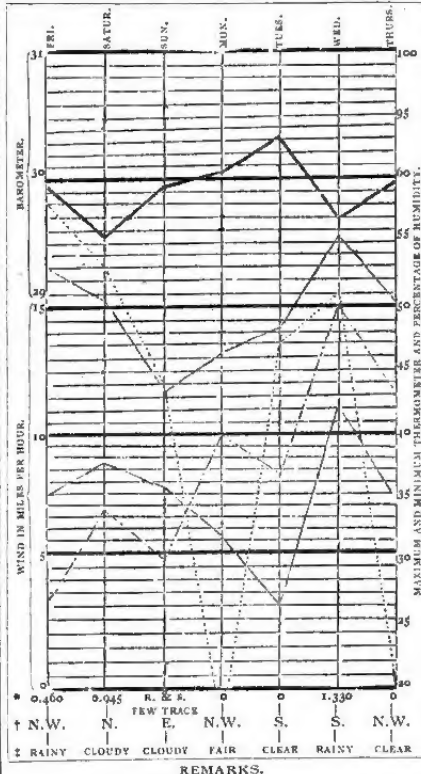
The Counsel for the defendant then made application for permission to strike out certain words and otherwise amend the answer to the petition.

The Court said that authorities would have to be consulted in regard to Mr. Weiller's application, and he would adjourn the case till Monday next.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

FOR WEEK BEGINNING FRIDAY, MARCH 7TH, 1884.

Observatory of Daigaku, Moto-Fujicho, Hongō, Tokiyo, Japan.



REMARKS.
Heavy line represents barometer.
Light continuous line—maximum and minimum thermometers.
..... represents velocity of wind.
..... represents percentage of humidity.
The barometer is reduced to the freezing point and to the level of the sea.
* Rain in inches. † Direction of Wind. ‡ Weather.
Maximum velocity of wind 46.0 miles per hour on Wednesday at 1 p.m.
The highest reading of the barometer for the week was 30.373 inches on Tuesday at 10 a.m., and the lowest was 29.456 inches on Saturday at 2 p.m.
The highest temperature for the week was 55.6 on Wednesday, and the lowest was 26.0 on Tuesday.
The total amount of rain for the week was 2.735 (and few trace of rain and snow) inches, against 0.388 inches for the corresponding week of last year.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE

From Europe, via Hongkong, per M. M. Co. Tuesday, March 18th.*
From Shanghai, Nagasaki, & Kobe, per M. B. Co. Thursday, March 20th.
From America, per O. & O. Co. Friday, March 28th.†

* Felga (with French mail) left Hongkong on March 11th.
† Oceanic left San Francisco on March 8th.

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES

For Hongkong, per P. M. Co. Sunday, March 16th.
For Kobe, per K. U. Co. Monday, March 17th.
For Korea, via Coast Ports, per M. B. Co. Tuesday, March 18th.
For Shanghai, Kobe, & Nagasaki, per M. B. Co. Wednesday, Mar. 19th.
For Europe, via Hongkong, per P. & O. Co. Saturday, March 22nd.
For America, per O. & O. Co. Friday, March 28th.

The arrival and departure of mails by the Occidental and Oriental, the Pacific Mail, and the Peninsular and Oriental Companies, are approximate only.

TIME TABLES.

YOKOHAMA-TOKIO RAILWAY.

The Trains LEAVE YOKOHAMA Station at 6.45, 8.00, 8.50,* 9.45, and 11.00 a.m., and 12.15, 1.30, 2.45, 4.00, 4.45,* 6.00, 7.15, 8.30, 9.45, and 11.00† p.m.

The Trains LEAVE TOKIO (Shinbashi) at 6.45, 8.00, 9.15,* 9.45, and 11.00 a.m., and 12.15, 1.30, 2.45, 4.00, 4.45,* 6.00, 7.15, 8.30, 9.45, and 11.00† p.m.

Those marked with (*) run through without stopping at Tsurumi, Kawasaki, and Omori Stations. Those with (†) are the same as above with the exception of stopping at Kawasaki Station.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER "SPECIAL" TO "JAPAN MAIL."]

London, March 8th.

FIGHTING IN EGYPT.

The rebels near Suakim having refused to disperse, the British troops will advance upon them on Tuesday (11th).

London, March 9th.

BATTLE IMMINENT.

A decisive battle is expected to be fought at or near Suakim on Friday (to-morrow).

CREDIT VOTE FOR THE SOUDAN.

After two days' debate, the House of Commons has approved of a supplementary credit of £500,000 for the operations in the Soudan.

Hongkong, March 11th.

THE ADVANCE ON BAC-NINH.

A general advance on Bac-ninh has commenced. The garrison has been found to comprise a strong force of Chinese troops.

London, March 14th.

CAPTURE OF BAC-NINH.

Bac-ninh has been taken by the French. No particulars.

Later.

The French troops captured Bac-ninh on the 12th. There was only a feeble resistance offered to the attack, and the French suffered but a trifling loss.

Hongkong, March 14th.

The French have captured two forts in the vicinity of Bac-ninh. The enemy has fallen back upon the citadel.

Later.

Bac-ninh has been captured. French loss 72 wounded.

London, March 14th.

FIGHTING IN EGYPT.

A battle has been fought near Suakim, in which the British troops have gained a complete victory. The British loss is inconsiderable.

London, March 14th, 5.40 p.m.

Cotton, unaltered; Mid. Upland, 5½. Yarns, market very strong. Shirtings, unchanged, but firm. Silk, market quiet.

[FROM THE "N.-C. DAILY NEWS."]

London, 27th February.

The Right Honourable Sir H. Brand has resigned the Speakership of the House of Commons, and Mr. Arthur Peel has been elected Speaker unopposed.

London, 28th February.

Admiral Miot has superseded Admiral Galiber as the Commander of the French Naval Force in Malagasy waters. This indicates a policy of conciliation.

London, 29th February.

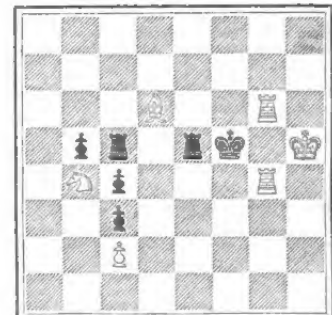
The Premier has introduced a Bill for the Extension of the Franchise which reduces the Country Franchise to Ten Pounds, and said that he hoped to bring in a Bill for the redistribution of seats next year.

CHESS.

By J. ELSON.

From American Chess Nuts.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in 3 moves.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Hiroshima Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,862, J. Wynn, 10th March.—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Mitsui Bishi M. S. S. Co.

City of Tokio, American steamer, 3,129, J. Maury, 10th March.—Hongkong 3rd March, Mails and General.—P. M. S. S. Co.

Onoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 104, Sugimoto, 11th March.—Fukuda 9th March, General.—Fukudasha.

Taganoura Maru, Japanese steamer, 428, Matsumoto, 11th March.—Yokkaichi 9th March, General.—Mitsui Bishi M. S. S. Co.

Fohann Carl, German schooner, 145, Schwartz, 12th March.—Takao 27th February, 3,300 piculs Sugar.—E. J. Collyer & Co.

Koweki Maru, Japanese steamer, 63, Omura, 12th March.—Omaki, having in tow the British bark *Sattara*.—Kowyekisha.

Seisho Maru, Japanese steamer, 210, Isoda, 12th March.—Yokkaichi, General.—Seikisha.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,196, Hubbard, 12th March.—Hakodate 9th and Oginohama 11th March, General.—Mitsui Bishi M. S. S. Co.

Shario Maru, Japanese steamer, 680, Streamer, 12th March.—Sendai 8th March, General.—Mitsui Bishi M. S. S. Co.

Will o' the Wish, British steamer, 166, F. Owston, 13th March.—Nagasaki 8th March, Coals and General.—Owston, Snow & Co.

Kiyokawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 62, Emada, 13th March.—Shimidzu 11th March, General.—Seiriusa.

Sapphire, British corvette (12), Captain J. R. T. Fullerton, 13th March.—Kobe 10th March.

Totomi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,960, Steadman, 13th March.—Kobe 10th March, General.—Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, R. N. Walker, 14th March.—Kobe 12th March, General.—Mitsui Bishi M. S. S. Co.

Seirio Maru, Japanese steamer, 428, Tamura, 14th March.—Yokkaichi 11th March, General.—Mitsui Bishi M. S. S. Co.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 670, Lampert, 14th March.—Yokkaichi 12th March, General.—Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.

Horai Maru, Japanese steamer, 314, Arai, 14th March.—Yokkaichi 12th March, General.—Mitsui Bishi M. S. S. Co.

Kairio Maru, Japanese steamer, 370, Amano, 14th March.—Yokkaichi, General.—Handasha.

Kamtchatka, Russian steamer, 702, Ingman, 14th March.—Nagasaki 10th March, Coals.—Walsh, Hall & Co.

City of Peking, American steamer, 3,129, Berry, 15th March.—San Francisco 21st February, Mails and General.—P. M. S. S. Co.

Sehirio Maru, Japanese steamer, 584, Moto, 15th March.—Kobe 12th March, General.—Mitsui Bishi M. S. S. Co.

DEPARTURES.

Alpheus Marshall, British bark, 1,096, E. W. MacFaden, 8th March.—Takao and Taiwanfoo, Ballast.—Frazier & Co.

Hiogo Maru, Japanese steamer, 896, R. N. Walker, 8th March.—Kobe, Mails and General.—Mitsui Bishi M. S. S. Co.

Owari Maru, Japanese steamer, 684, Adair, 8th March.—Hakodate, Mails and General.—Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.

Benalder, British steamer, 1,330, J. Ross, 9th March.—Nagasaki, General.—Mourilyan, Heimann & Co.

Seirio Maru, Japanese steamer, 459, Tamura, 9th March.—Yokkaichi, General.—Mitsui Bishi M. S. S. Co.

Kiyokawa Maru, Japanese steamer, 62, Emada, 10th March.—Shimidzu, General.—Seiriusa.

Takasago Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,230, C. Young, 10th March.—Hakodate via Oginohama, Mails and General.—Mitsui Bishi M. S. S. Co.

Gembu Maru, Japanese steamer, 670, Lampert, 11th March.—Yokkaichi, General.—Kiyodo Unyu Kwaisha.

Ashburne, British steamer, 1,613, J. M. Lambert, 11th March.—London via ports, General.—Adamson, Bell & Co.

Dauhai Maru, Japanese steamer, 97, Shimidzu, 12th March.—Atami General.—TokaiKaisan Kwaisha.

City of Tokio, American steamer, 3,129, J. Maury, 12th March.—San Francisco via Honolulu, Mails and General.—P. M. S. S. Co.

Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 680, P. Hussey, 13th March.—Kobe, Mails and General.—Mitsui Bishi M. S. S. Co.

Okame Maru, Japanese steamer, 148, Ichishima, 13th March.—Handa, General.—Handasha.

Koweki Maru, Japanese steamer, 63, Omura, 14th March.—Yokkaichi, General.—Kowyekisha.

Nagoya Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,900, E. Wilson Haswell, 14th March.—Shanghai and ports, Mails and General.—Mitsui Bishi M. S. S. Co.

Niigata Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,097, Hubbard, 14th March.—Kobe, General.—Mitsui Bishi M. S. S. Co.

Carondelet, American ship, 1,438, W. F. Stetson, 15th March.—Nagasaki, Ballast.—Smith, Baker & Co.

Mensaleh, French steamer, 1,384, B. Blanc, 15th March.—Hongkong, Mails and General.—Messageries Maritimes Co.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Japanese steamer *Takasago Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. Ellerton, Robertson, and 6 Japanese in cabin; and 97 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Hiroshima Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Mr. and Mrs. Berry and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Batchelor, Mr. and Mrs. P. Symes, Mr. and Mrs. Kowri, Mrs. C. O'Neil and son, Mrs. Rivers, Rev. W. Andrew, Rev. P. Fyson, Miss Nakamura, Messrs. J. H. Barry, Ware, C. A. Taylor, Kawamoto, Otani, Fujitake, Mori, Itagaki, Umino, and Kono in cabin; and 2 Europeans, 3 Chinese, and 208 Japanese in steerage. For San Francisco: James Bealey, U.S. seaman in steerage.

Per American steamer *City of Tokio*, from Hongkong:—Mr. and Mrs. E. H. R. Manly, 4 children and 2 servants in cabin. For San Francisco: Mr. and Mrs. J. D'Angelis and child, Messrs. H. Nicaise, and F. C. Mills in cabin; and 2 Europeans and 121 Chinese in steerage. For Honolulu: 416 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Onoura Maru*, from Fukuda:—15 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Taganoura Maru*, from Yokkaichi:—25 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, from Hakodate via Oginohama:—Mr. and Mrs. Shiga, Messrs. Sakurai, Mishima, Sanada, and Murai in cabin; and 143 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Shario Maru*, from Sendai:—1 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Kiyokawa Maru*, from Shimidzu:—22 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Totomi Maru*, from Kobe:—85 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Hiogo Maru*, from Kobe:—Messrs. Martin des Pallières, Sudzuki, Riosuke, Sano, Nakano, Ikeda, Yamanaka, Itakura, Fujiyama, Fujido, and Hino in cabin; and 109 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Seirio Maru*, from Yokkaichi:—58 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Gembu Maru*, from Yokkaichi:—12 Japanese.

Per Japanese steamer *Horai Maru*, from Yokkaichi:—21 Japanese.

Per American steamer *City of Peking*, from San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Clark, Miss L. McKechim, Miss Kate N. Corez, Dr. Simon, Messrs. C. Rudolph, K. Nabeshima, and Y. Yamashita in cabin; and 2 Chinese in steerage. For Hongkong: Mr. S. J. Gower in cabin; and 2 Europeans and 227 Chinese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Sehirio Maru*, from Kobe:—28 Japanese.

DEPARTED.

Per Japanese steamer *Hiogo Maru*, for Kobe:—Governor Kunishige, Messrs. M. Tsuda and T. Yamanouchi in cabin; and 90 Japanese in steerage.

Per Japanese steamer *Owari Maru*, for Hakodate:—23 Japanese.

Per American steamer *City of Tokio*, for San Francisco:—Mr. and Mrs. J. D'Angelis and child, and Mr. F. C. Mills in cabin; and 14 Europeans, 5 Japanese, and 120 Japanese in steerage. For Honolulu: 486 Chinese in steerage. For New York: Mr. and Mrs. J. McD. Gardiner and infant, Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Berry and 3 children, Mrs. Dan Farrell and child, Mrs. Chas. O'Neil and child, Messrs. V. Klein and J. H. Barry in cabin. For Liverpool: Messrs. W. Sanderson, N.

Asano, N. S. Asano, and S. Okuda in cabin. For London: Mr. E. C. MacNaughten and Captain Brown in cabin.

Per Japanese steamer *Nagoya Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Mrs. Okiwa and child, Miss Lucy Hoag, Miss Mary C. Robinson, Messrs. B. H. Chamberlain, D. Fanele, H. Geslien, T. R. Elliott, W. Conrad, W. D. Townsend, M. Field, Yamamoto, Tanabe, Yokoyama, Sato, Yamanaka, H. Ando, Mamura, Ishiware, N. Mogi, I. Uyeda, S. Mogi, B. Kasakura, Takagi, and Shindo in cabin.

Per French steamer *Mensaleh*, for Hongkong:—Messrs. Jean Paty, Iwami Kenzo, Iwami Tosuke, Wakai, and Marunaka in cabin.

CARGOES.

Per Japanese steamer *Hiroshima Maru*, from Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, \$66,000.00; for San Francisco, gold \$11,026.00.

Per American steamer *City of Tokio*, for San Francisco via Honolulu:—

	TEA.		OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.		
Hiogo	—	115	613	628
Yokohama	1,848	—	387	2,235
Hongkong	412	—	—	412
Total	2,260	115	900	3,275

	SILK.		OTHER CITIES.	TOTAL.
	SAN FRANCISCO.	NEW YORK.		
Shanghai	—	214	—	214
Hongkong	—	191	—	191
Yokohama	—	434	—	434
Total	—	839	—	839

Per Japanese steamer *Nagoya Maru*, for Shanghai and ports:—Treasure, 4,000.00.

Per French steamer *Mensaleh*, for Hongkong:—Silk, for France, 30 bales.

REPORTS.

The American steamer *City of Tokio*, Captain J. Maury, reports leaving Hongkong on the 3rd March, at 4.25 p.m. with fresh monsoon and head sea to Turnabout; thence to Van Diemen Straits fresh westerly gales, thick and raining weather; and thence to port variable winds and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama on the 10th March, at 3 p.m. Time, 6 days, 22 hours, and 45 minutes.

The Japanese steamer *Niigata Maru*, Captain J. C. Hubbard, reports leaving Hakodate on the 9th March, at 10 a.m. with north-westerly winds and fine weather to Oginohama, where arrived on the 10th, at 11 a.m. and left on the 11th, at 9 a.m. with southerly winds and fine weather to No-sima; thence to port S.S.W. gale and thick rainy weather. Arrived at Yokohama on the 12th March, at 11 a.m.

The Japanese steamer *Hiogo Maru*, Captain R. N. Walker, reports leaving Kobe on the 12th March, at 6 p.m. with fresh westerly winds and moderate weather to Rock Island; thence to port N. and N.E. winds and fine weather. Arrived at Yokohama on the 14th March, at 2.10 a.m.

SHIPPING IN YOKOHAMA.

SAILING VESSELS.

Annapolis, British bark, 915, J. Woodworth, 9th February.—New York via Kobe 4th February, Kerosene and General.—J. D. Carroll & Co.

Black Diamond, German bark, 585, Polley, 30th September.—Puget Sound, Lumber and Salmon.—P. Bohm.

Diana, American schooner, 77, Peterson, 28th October.—North, Skins and Oil.—Captain.

Frank Pendleton, American ship, 1,362, E. P. Nicholas, 6th March.—New York 5th October, Kerosene and General.—China and Japan Trading Co.

Guam, British 3-masted schooner, 294, Marns, 23rd August.—Takao 2nd August, Sugar.—Master.

Helena, British schooner, 52, Judd, 26th January.—Wreck of British bark *Sattara*, 23rd January, Officers, Crew, and Effects.—Captain.

Fohann Carl, German schooner, 145, Schwartz, 12th March.—Takao 27th February, 3,300 piculs Sugar.—J. E. Collyer & Co.

Lisa, American schooner, 70, Weston, 6th November.—Kurile Islands, General.—J. D. Carroll & Co.

Mary C. Bohm, German schooner, 48, Baade, 23rd November.—Kurile Islands 13th November, Furs.—P. Bohm.

Nemo, Russian schooner, Ridderbjelke, 28th October.—North, Skins and Oil.—Ginsburg.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.

A fair general demand has existed for many descriptions of goods and Yarns, and the clearances continue much more satisfactory.

COTTON YARN.—The Market has been pretty well cleared of all "spot" cargo at present on offer and buyers have reluctantly been compelled to buy for arrival at rather higher rates than previously quoted. Bombays are also in more demand at advanced prices.

COTTON PIECE GOODS.—Shirtings continue dull and neglected, T-Cloths likewise, but there is a moderate demand for Turkey Reds and Victoria Lawns.

WOOLENS.—Mousseline de Laine continues to be sold to an average extent, but other goods have had very little attention from buyers, and most prices are quite nominal.

COTTON YARNS.

	PER PICUL.
Nos. 16 to 24, Common to Medium	\$26.50 to 29.00
Nos. 16 to 24, Good to Best	29.50 to 30.75
Bombay, No. 20, Good to Best	26.00 to 28.00
Nos. 28 to 32, Common to Medium	30.00 to 31.75
Nos. 28 to 32, Good to Best	32.25 to 33.75
Nos. 38 to 42	34.00 to 36.50

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	PER PIECE.	PER YARD.
Grey Shirtings—84 in, 38 1/2 to 39 inches	\$1.70	to 2.15
Grey Shirtings—90 in, 38 1/2 to 45 inches	1.85	to 2.30
T. Cloth—7 1/2 yds, 32 inches	1.35	to 1.45
Indigo Shirting—12 yards, 44 inches	1.50	to 1.75
Prints—Assorted, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.10	to 2.40
Cotton—Italians and Satteens Black, 32 inches	0.07	to 0.09
Turkey Reds—2 to 2 1/2 yds, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.20	to 1.45
Turkey Reds—2 1/2 to 3 1/2 yds, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.50	to 2.00
Turkey Reds—3 1/2 to 4 yds, 24 yards, 30 inches	1.70	to 1.82 1/2
Velvets—Black, 35 yards, 22 inches	7.00	to 8.00
Victoria Lawns, 12 yards, 42-3 inches	0.65	to 0.70
Taffachels, 12 yards, 43 inches	1.75	to 2.05

WOOLENS.

Plain Orleans, 40-42 yards, 32 inches	\$3.50	to 5.50
Figured Orleans, 29-31 yards, 31 inches	3.25	to 4.00
Italian Cloth, 30 yards, 32 inches	0.18	to 0.28
Mousseline de Laine—Crape, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.14	to 0.15
Mousseline de Laine—Itajime, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.18 1/2	to 0.25
Mousseline de Laine—Vuzen, 24 yards, 31 inches	0.30	to 0.38 1/2
Cloths—Pilots, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to 0.40
Cloths—Presidents, 54 @ 56 inches	0.40	to 0.50
Cloths—Union, 54 @ 56 inches	0.30	to 0.55
Blankets—Scarlet and Green, 6 to 5 1/2 yds	0.35	to 0.40

IRON.

	PER PICUL.
Flat Bars, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.....	\$2.50 to 2.85
Flat Bars, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.....	2.80 to 2.90
Round and square up to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch	2.80 to 2.90
Nailrod, assorted.....	2.35 to 2.60
Nailrod, small size	2.85 to 3.15

KEROSENE.

No business has been done in oil during the past week, and prices must be considered quite nominal at quotations. Deliveries have been 18,000 cases.

	PER CASE.
Devoc	\$1.76
Comet	1.72
Stella	1.68

SUGAR.

A small business only has to be reported, and no change in prices has to be recorded.

	PER PICUL.
White, No. 1	\$8.00 to 8.35
White, No. 2	6.75 to 7.00
White, No. 3	6.30 to 6.50
White, No. 4	5.80 to 6.00
White, No. 5	4.60 to 4.75
Brown Formosa	3.70 to 3.75

EXPORTS.

RAW SILK.

Our last was dated the 6th instant, since when there has been a large business doing in this Market, and the Settlements for seven days are fully 400 piculs. All classes, excepting coarse *Oshu* and *Taysam* kinds, have shared in the demand, and a rise of about \$10 per picul has been established for suitable lots.

The demand has been almost entirely for the United States Markets, *Filatures*, *Re-reels*, *Kakedas*, and even *Hanks* being freely taken for that destination. Cablegrams, reporting a better feeling in New York, coupled with the fact that the season's Export to date from Shanghai to the United States is now about 50 per cent. short (2,200 bales, against 4,200 bales same date last year) have caused buyers to be somewhat eager; and the native producer or dealer has benefited accordingly. From Europe news is not particularly bright, and purchases for that destination are few and far between.

Full-sized *Oshu* and *Taysam* sorts have again been taken in quantity for the native looms at Kiyoto, values being forced up to a level far above the prices which exporters can afford to pay. We withdraw all quotations accordingly, and the available Stocks are gradually being absorbed for internal use.

The O. & O. steamer *Kluwa*, which left this port on the morning of the 8th instant, carried 77 bales for the Continent of Europe. The P.M. steamer *City of Tokio* (detained by bad weather till 4 p.m. yesterday) took 465 bales for New York, of which 37 bales are noted as being shipped by Japanese. These shipments bring the total Export up to 28,020 bales (the figures for the whole of last season were but 28,734 bales), against 22,479 bales to same date last year, and 14,886 bales in 1882.

Hanks.—These have shared in the general demand, about 100 piculs being settled, and shipped for the States by yesterday's mail steamer. In the daily list we note business done in *Shinshu*, at from \$520 to \$510, according to quality. Beyond this a few *Chichibu* reported at \$500.

Filatures.—This class has been in request, and about 150 piculs have found purchasers at full rates. Fine Silks have again been neglected, enquiry running on 14/16 den. thread. Among the purchases for the *City of Tokio* we notice *Tokosha*, \$630; *Yamanashi Kan*, \$620; *Shinshu*, \$620; *Kosho*, \$605 and \$600, with lower qualities at \$590 and \$585. Buying for next steamer has already begun at an advance in price, *Nihonmatsu* having been done at \$657 1/2, with *Tokosha* at \$640.

Re-reels.—There has been a fair enquiry for these, but the scarcity of good parcels has tended to restrict business. We observe one or two small purchases at \$612 1/2 for *Oshu Koriyama*, and \$600 for *Maibashi*.

Kakeda.—Again we have to report a good business, about 140 piculs of all grades having found buyers at enhanced values. The better classes have also participated, and business has been done in *Chocho*, \$605; *Phoenix*, \$600; but sellers will not go on at these rates. Medium sorts have been in strong demand as a substitute for "Re-reeled Tsatlees," and leave off with an upward tendency.

Oshu and Coarse Kinds.—Foreigners are quite out of the hunt just now: the home manufacture is gradually absorbing all supplies at very high prices.

QUOTATIONS.

Hanks—No. 1	Nominal
Hanks—No. 2 (Shinshu)	\$520 to 530
Hanks—No. 2 (Joshu)	Nom. 510 to 520
Hanks—No. 2 1/2 (Shinshu)	500 to 510
Hanks—No. 2 1/2 (Joshu)	Nom. 480 to 490
Hanks—No. 3	Nom. 465 to 475
Hanks—No. 3 1/2	Nom. 450 to 460
Filatures—Extra	650 to 660
Filatures—No. 1, 10/13 deniers	Nom. 620 to 630
Filatures—No. 1, 14/16 deniers	630 to 640
Filatures—No. 1 1/2, 14/17 deniers	615 to 625
Filatures—No. 2, 10/15 deniers	610 to 620
Filatures—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	600 to 610
Filatures—No. 3, 14/20 deniers	570 to 580
Re-reels—No. 1, 14/16 deniers	Nominal
Re-reels—No. 1 1/2, 14/17 deniers	590 to 600
Re-reels—No. 2, 14/18 deniers	Nom. 570 to 580
Re-reels—No. 2 1/2, 14/20 deniers	Nom. 550 to 560
Kakedas—Extra	Nominal
Kakedas—No. 1	610 to 620
Kakedas—No. 2	580 to 590
Kakedas—No. 3	550 to 560
Oshu Sendai—No. 2 1/2	—
Hamatsuki—No. 1, 2	—
Hamatsuki—No. 3, 4	—
Sodai—No. 2 1/2	—

Export Tables Raw Silk to 13th March, 1884:—

	SEASON 1883-84.	1882-83.	1881-82.
France and Italy	16,828	11,368	7,221
America	8,553	7,814	4,818
England	2,639	3,297	2,847
Total	28,020	22,479	14,886

WASTE SILK.

Transactions have fallen off in this branch, and Settlements for the week do not exceed 150 piculs. Some few supplies have come in, and the Stock is increased somewhat. Buyers complain that the assortment on offer is far from attractive, but with the break-up of winter weather, fresh arrivals will doubtless come to hand. Judging from the production last year, there should yet be some decent lots to come in before the season closes.

The P. & O. steamer of 8th instant carried 134 bales, and the Export now stands at 20,793 piculs, against 19,228 piculs last year, and 17,666 piculs to same date in 1882.

Noshi-ito.—Fully half the transactions have been in this class. *Filatures* are reported sold at \$155, \$140, and \$135, according to quality. In *Fosho Noshi*, some sales have been made of Winter reeling at \$86. Arrivals generally have been on a par with Settlements, and Stocks are practically unaltered both in volume and quality.

Kibiso.—The balance of purchases recorded are

entered in this class. Best qualities have again been conspicuous by their absence, and transactions are noted as follows:—*Sandanshu*, \$80; *Fosho*, \$33 1/2, \$33, \$32 1/2; *Hachoji*, \$20, \$15; *Low Neri*, \$8 and \$6. These prices are all for the rough "Stock" uncleared and unpicked.

Mawata.—Nothing passing, and the position is unchanged as per former advices.

QUOTATIONS.

Pierced Cocoons—Medium to Fair	None.
Noshi-ito—Filature, Best	160
Noshi-ito—Filature, Good	140
Noshi-ito—Filature, Medium	130
Noshi-ito—Oshu, Good to Best	140 to 150
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Best	Nom. 110
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Good	100
Noshi-ito—Shinshu, Medium	Nom. 90
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Best	Nom. 110 to 115
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Good	90 to 95
Noshi-ito—Joshu, Ordinary	85 to 87 1/2
Kibiso—Filature, Best selected	Nom. 125
Kibiso—Filature, Seconds	Nom. 115 to 120
Kibiso—Oshu, Good	Nom. 95
Kibiso—Shinshu, Best	Nom. 85
Kibiso—Shinshu, Seconds	65 to 70
Kibiso—Joshu, Fair to Common	50 to 55
Kibiso—Hachoji, Medium to Low	25 to 30
Kibiso—Neri, Good to Common	18 to 20
Mawata—Good to Best	170 to 180

	SEASON 1883-1884.	1882-1883.	1881-1882.
Waste Silk	15,598	16,085	14,507
Pierced Cocoons	2,195	3,143	3,159
	20,793	19,228	17,666

Exchange has rallied and again declined, last week's quotations now holding good, viz.:—LONDON, 4 m/s. Credits, 3/8 1/2; Documents, 3/8 1/2; NEW YORK, 30 d/s., 89; 60 d/s., 89 1/2; PARIS, 4 m/s., fcs. 4.67 1/2; 6 m/s., fcs. 4.70. *Kinsatsu* have steadily advanced to 115 per \$100.

Estimated Silk Stock 13th March, 1884:—

RAW.	PICULS.	WASTE.	PICULS.
Hanks	1,200	Pierced Cocoons	—
Filature & Re-reels	200	Noshi-ito	60
Kakeda	200	Kibiso	450
Sendai & Hamatsuki	150	Mawata	20
Taysam Kinds	50		
Total piculs	2,000	Total piculs	530

TEA.

During the early part of the week a pretty good business was done, but during the last two days, there has been less doing. The total Settlements foot up to 765 piculs, which shows a better business than we have been reporting for the past fortnight. On the 10th and 11th instant, two buyers purchased about 295 piculs of very common Tea at \$2 1/2 to \$3 1/2 per picul, respectively to be broken into dust by firing, and then shipped to New York by first opportunity, these purchases are not included in the above settlements. From the purchases made during the past week now under review, we find that buyers have been paying fully one dollar and a half over our last Market prices, and under existing circumstances we consider is advisable to alter the quotations. The Market closes firm as below. The next mail for San Francisco is the O. & O. steamer *Arabic*, and is advertised to leave here on the 28th instant, taking Tea at 3 cents per lbs. gross to the Eastern States and Canada, and at \$12.00 per ton of 40 cubic feet for San Francisco. Some small amount of Tea cargo has been shipped via Suez Canal to London, thence to be transhipped to New York at rates ranging, from 60 to 62 shillings per ton of 40 cubic feet. The following are the Tea shipments since our last Market Report:—81,727 lbs. for New York, per P. & O. steamer *Kluwa*; 12,880 lbs. to New York, per O. & O. steamer *Arabic*, both via Hongkong; 12,704 lbs. for Chicago, 1,200 lbs. for Portland (Oregon), 93,445 lbs. for California, and 10,254 lbs. for Canada, per P.M. steamer *City of Tokio*, making a total of 212,210 lbs. of Fired Tea to the United States and Canada by these steamers.

QUOTATIONS.

Common	\$14 & under
Good Common	16 to 18
Medium	20 to 22
Good Medium	Nominal

EXCHANGE.

Another slight decline has to be recorded in Exchange during the week. Transactions have been extremely small, and quotations have a downward tendency.

Sterling—Bank Bills on demand	3/7 1/2
Sterling—Bank 4 months' sight	3/8
Sterling—Private 4 months' sight	3/8 1/2
Sterling—Private 6 months' sight	3/8 1/2
On Paris—Bank sight	4-57
On Paris—Private 6 months' sight	4-60
On Hongkong—Bank sight	Par
On Hongkong—Private 10 days' sight	1/2 % dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	72 1/2
On Shanghai—Private 10 days' sight	73
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	88 1/2
On New York—Private 30 days' sight	89
On San Francisco—Bank Bills on demand	88 1/2
On San Francisco—Private 30 days' sight	89

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